

00132

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 Tanana, Alaska
5 October 12, 2000
6 9:00 o'clock a.m.

7
8
9 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

10
11 Nathaniel Good
12 Gerald Nicholia
13 Craig Fleener
14 David Jones
15 Jim Wilde
16
17 Coordinator; Vince Mathews, Donald Mike

P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN GOOD: If we could get started now, Vince are you prepared?

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think you need to start under IX(B), which is basically a summary, overview and evaluation of the 2000 in-season management. The objective is just to hear from the Federal in-season manager as well as the area biologists from Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I would also like to get comments from the people that served on the coordinating fisheries committee, how we can improve that or, you know, comments what worked, what didn't work. And then we need to talk about the Southcentral coordinating committee because you requested or the Council requested establishing a coordinating committee with Southcentral. Ralph Lohse and Southcentral responded positively to that and they've appointed two of their members to serve on that committee. So that's another thing before we get into Yukon River protocol.

CHAIRMAN GOOD: So that will bring Bonnie and Monty up then?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And there is materials in Tab D as in Dalton that I'll bring up after their presentation or during it or whenever it's needed that shows the involvement of the Council and also Staff, Rod Simmons put together a summary of the in-season actions, if that's needed. And you have that in your file folder I gave you, it's blue in color. I'm just saying it's there if you want to know how the season progressed.

MR. MILLARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Council members. My name is Monty Millard. I'm the northern coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service at Fairbanks, Alaska, and I'm also, which is somewhat confusing to some people, in-season manager for the Federal Subsistence Board on the Yukon River. This means that I signed the special actions that came before you this year.

I'd like to direct your attention to the agenda (B) and (C), I think our discussions today will overlap and with the Chair's permission I'd like to incorporate these two while both of us are together up here.

CHAIRMAN GOOD: Granted.

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1 MR. MILLARD: A small housekeeping chore
2 that I think was brought up by Craig Fleener yesterday,
3 when John Starr talked about the three percent, and I'll
4 just take a moment and try to explain that. The three
5 percent number comes from the total subsistence harvest for
6 the entire state, and that's three percent of tens of
7 millions of fish that are captured commercially, personal
8 use, sportfish, and subsistence. Along the Yukon River.
9 the numbers for fall chum -- fall chum varied considerably
10 from this year from a low of roughly 250,000 to a high of
11 850, possibly approaching a million, so it's really
12 difficult to put a percentage on it. But it varies from
13 around 14 to 26 percent on an average. Chinook, which has
14 been quite stable until the last three years, particular in
15 1998 and this particular year run in the neighborhood of 25
16 percent subsistence harvest. It's around 51, 52,000 fish
17 are harvested by subsistence fishermen. Normally around
18 20,000 in the lower river and 30,000 in the upper river
19 sections.

20
21 Do you have any additional questions to
22 that?

23
24 (No responses)

25
26 MR. MILLARD: All right. Basically what
27 this first section of the morning's about is the public
28 evaluation. It's an opportunity for the coordinating
29 committee, the rest of the Council to give their feelings
30 on how -- what went right, what went wrong during this
31 particular season to both the State and the Federal
32 government. The protocol, which we'll delve into following
33 this discussion, possibly periodically during the
34 discussion as to why certain things took place will be
35 discussed more fully later. This is a public forum, the
36 public's allowed to also contribute to this. Later, the
37 last week in November we'd like to have the Council provide
38 two members to meet with the other three Council members in
39 probably Anchorage to fully flesh out and develop the
40 protocol for the year 2001 and further years.

41
42 I felt very comfortable with the protocol
43 this particular year and we just want to flesh it out and
44 try to use these comments that come in out of the various
45 RACs, but again, we're getting a bit ahead of ourselves. I
46 think at this time, maybe Bonnie Borba could give a brief
47 review of the season. I think all of you are quite
48 familiar with what occurred and this will just be a rapid
49 overview of what occurred this particular year.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Bonnie.

2

3 MS. BORBA: Mr. Chairman, this is Bonnie
4 Borba, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in-season
5 manager. We discussed some of this, that I would present a
6 little bit later on those issues, but I'll try to go over
7 summer season from what I have written down here.

8

9 At the beginning of the year when they
10 start assessing the chinook salmon run as it comes into the
11 river, they had an expectation of possibly a small amount
12 of commercial fish that they could take based on previous
13 years. It turned out the first couple of pulses of fish
14 came in, they let them go by and waited and the run
15 continued to look like 1998, and that year they took the
16 low harvest of about 20,000 chinook. And as long as the
17 assessment of the run was around that level, things were
18 looking like a possibility of being able to commercial fish
19 which they did start fishing on. As the run continued to
20 go on, with further assessment, it was determined that the
21 run would not support additional commercial fishing and at
22 that time -- when they actually started fishing it was the
23 latest they had ever opened a commercial fishery. They had
24 one period in each Y1 and Y2, and then I believe another
25 one in Y1, and then at that point it was assessed that they
26 couldn't harvest anymore fish and they shut that commercial
27 down in the lower river.

28

29 The run when it comes in, you only have a
30 few days for the majority of the run to get -- that comes
31 into the river, usually pretty compact, and once that
32 happens there through the lower river, meanwhile as the
33 fish kept moving upriver, the assessment became that both
34 summer chum and chinook were really poor and then we went
35 into restrictions. During -- and it's unfortunate. We
36 know that the individuals upriver didn't meet their
37 subsistence harvest while downriver they had opportunity
38 because the fish come in there sooner and it takes them so
39 long to get to the upper portions of the river that
40 subsistence needs were not going to be met in those areas.

41

42 Going into the fall season, at that time
43 the commercial was closed, the sportfish was closed,
44 personal use was closed during the summer season around
45 July 14th for personal use and the preseason projection for
46 fall chum salmon was about 531,000 to 1.1 million and those
47 are based on the preseason projection that we make for fall
48 chum. It's the only species that we have an actual run
49 size that we try to calculate each year that includes the

50 harvest, the escapement to figure out the total number of

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1 fish.

2

3 The 1.1 million high on that was based on a
4 normal, typical returns for the really good parent years
5 that we had for those stocks from '95 and '96. The low end
6 of that, the 531,000 was asked on the last two years we've
7 have really poor returns, low productivity on those fish.
8 And after what happened with the chinook and the summer
9 chum, the fall season has a chance to look at other areas
10 of the state and there was other poor runs on Western
11 Alaska as well as what happened with the summer chum and
12 chinook. So we were looking at it being --for the fall
13 chum run to be closer to the low end of that preseason
14 projection, which using the fall chum management plan, puts
15 us in restrictions to start with, with closures of
16 commercial, personal use, sportfish and then in some level
17 of restrictions. So we left the restrictions that were
18 placed on in summer season -- remained on into the fall
19 while we started assessing the run. We continued to assess
20 it.

21

22 As the run progressed, it didn't get any
23 better. When each pulse of fish comes in it will run the
24 projection up and then after the pulse, depending on the
25 size of it it will go back down a certain amount, and it
26 never came above the line of the 350, which is the minimum
27 escapement goal that we try to get in poor years for fall
28 chum salmon. But we're always hoping, you know, another
29 pulse will come and it can build it back up but it never
30 did. And at that point when we were getting later into the
31 season we decided that -- I mean we're already at August
32 11th is when the second set of restrictions came in and the
33 first set for fall season, and we were already at
34 approximately 54 percent of the run had gone through, on
35 average, and it wasn't getting any better. We went to
36 another step of restrictions, which was approximately 80
37 percent of everybody's normal subsistence was cut, except
38 for Lower Yukon took even a greater cut than everywhere
39 else in an understanding that they knew that they had met
40 more of their needs, and we continued from there.

41

42 The run, all the pulses after that time,
43 continued to be weak and the projection continued to drop.
44 So we ended up on August 23rd implementing closures of
45 subsistence fisheries also.

46

47 We did, in a couple areas, that had -- the
48 coho run was coming in fairly good and we were trying to
49 take advantage of that where we could, when the coho come

50 along below the Tanana here before they turn into the

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1 Tanana River itself. And so we did open a few options for
2 individuals to continue to fish and release chum and keep
3 coho with the use of fish wheels. The rest of the time, all
4 the other areas were allowed the four inch mesh or less,
5 was open seven days a week the whole time, even during the
6 closures, and as well as any other gear, there's a whole
7 bunch of other gear listed for non-salmon species that
8 could have been utilized to catch other fish but it would
9 be more difficult, not the volume that they're trying to
10 catch.

11

12 So after closures, at the end of the season
13 the run was only approximately 254,000 fall chum salmon.
14 It is the worst one on record so far and that's based on
15 Pilot Station, it doesn't include the harvest below there,
16 but we believe that will be a minimal amount this year
17 because of the restrictions that they were on, they were
18 down to like six hour periods before it got closed. And
19 right now we're working on escapement projects and so far
20 all of the projects that we're doing, I mean with Rampart's
21 population estimation that they gave at their quarter
22 point, even looking at all the actual escapements in those
23 streams above there, right now they're lining up with what
24 it was said at Rampart's Rapid's project, and the same
25 thing on the Tanana. Right now everything's adding up that
26 it's a poor run. But escapement surveys aren't completed
27 at this time.

28

29 If there's any questions on how the season
30 progressed.

31

32 MR. NICHOLIA: Mr. Chair, I have a
33 question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Gerald.

36

37 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, when you allowed us to
38 fish for everything up here, half the fish wheels and stuff
39 were out, there was only a couple of fish wheels in on
40 October 1st, they almost froze in. So that's just my one
41 comment.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Bonnie, I have a question,
44 there was a commercial fish opening on kings, I think you
45 said a number, how many were harvested?

46

47 MS. BORBA: They harvested 8,600 kings and
48 6,600 summer chum.

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, I was just noting

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1 that there was a lot of dissatisfaction that the Canadian's
2 had taken 1,300 fish, but if we took 8,600 fish maybe we
3 should be apologizing to the Canadians.

4

5 MS. BORBA: They took fall chum and we took
6 some kings, yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Yeah. Craig.

9

10 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have a question.
11 Is it customary that you allow the first pulses through
12 with no commercial harvest, usually, is that a standard
13 practice?

14

15 MS. BORBA: For summer season or fall?

16

17 MR. FLEENER: Well, it must be the summer
18 season, I think that's what you were talking about when you
19 said you let the first pulses through.

20

21 MS. BORBA: During the summer season they
22 usually wait at the test nets 10 days for increasing
23 catches before they'll consider a commercial. I'm not sure
24 exactly what was going on down there but their 10 days of
25 increasing fish wasn't what they expected and it might have
26 went up and down a little bit and it made them wait because
27 they were still trying to get a better assessment because
28 from what happened the previous year they still had a
29 little inclination that possibly something could be up and
30 they ended up waiting longer and that let those pulses of
31 fish go through. Normally king salmon aren't pulsey like
32 that. They build in a bell-shaped curve and so you pretty
33 much know where you're at in the run. Now, they're having
34 to deal with poor runs that are weak and they're pulsey and
35 they're more like fall chum and it makes it more difficult
36 to assess it because each pulse will make a difference on
37 your projection.

38

39 MR. FLEENER: Okay.

40

41 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to make this
42 suggestion since there's a -- I was at the
43 Tanana/Rampart/Manley meeting, I'd like to make the
44 suggestion to both of you guys, before -- since it's
45 predicted to be another poor year next year, I'd like you
46 guys to restrict commercial and let the people on the whole
47 river meet their subsistence needs. Because what you guys
48 did, you guys let downriver meet their subsistence needs
49 almost 100 percent in every village in Y1 and Y2 and Y3,

50 and for Y4 up we never -- it's just a poor story. So even

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1 like up in Fort Yukon, I don't think they even got 10
2 percent in their whole village. I'd like to see more
3 subsistence needs met than commercial. Because in both of
4 your programs and the State -- Article XII in ANILCA, it
5 states that subsistence is a priority.

6

7 That's my comments.

8

9 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have another
10 question. Bonnie you said that when you were talking about
11 like around the August 12th time period, you said the Lower
12 Yukon took a greater cut as far as fishing, what were you
13 referring to?

14

15 MS. BORBA: When we went to the 80 percent
16 from whatever they were before on the other openings, they
17 -- they were on a 12 hour schedule and the upper river, I
18 believe, was on a couple 24 hours or something, and when we
19 recalculated it based on -- that was based on different
20 criteria for the summer season, when we redid it for fall,
21 we did 80 percent of everybody's normal periods and it
22 ended up that 80 percent of theirs would have been a larger
23 number than the 12 hours that they were at, and instead
24 they decided, you know, everybody else got cut, instead of
25 two 24s to one 24, they decided, well, we're at 12 hours
26 now, we don't want to go to what it would have been and
27 they decided to take half of what they had, they opted for
28 six hours to cut theirs in half again instead of being
29 recalculated at the 80 percent, which would have actually
30 increased their time.

31

32 MR. FLEENER: So basically you're referring
33 to a greater cut in fishing time, not in a greater cut of
34 fish caught, because six hours down in the mouth is usually
35 a lot better than six hours in the Yukon Flats. So I just
36 wanted to clarify that you were talking about time, not
37 about fish.

38

39 MR. MILLARD: The six hours in the lower
40 river, sometimes, though, it depends upon when it's set
41 because their fishing is dependent very much upon the
42 tides.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 MR. MILLARD: Maybe Bonnie can provide the
47 outlook for next year. There's been comments made in
48 Nulato and also at Eagle that should be shared with you.

49

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1 MS. BORBA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the response
2 to Gerald's question about restricting commercial and
3 things next year. Based on what happened this year with
4 the chinook salmon run and the real poor summer chum run, I
5 believe right now we're looking at no commercial downriver
6 and possibilities of subsistence restrictions because the
7 run -- the five year olds and the six year olds that we
8 need for next year, if it's based on what happened this
9 year, it could be even worse.

10
11 Now, as far as getting -- not ever having
12 commercial down river until subsistence needs are met,
13 that's the part that's going to be difficult because the
14 river is so long and the fish come in. If we wait until we
15 know for sure that the needs are going to be met in the
16 upper river, if you were going to do that all the time you
17 wouldn't be able to have commercial. You have to do
18 something early on, but you know if we get a better idea of
19 what's coming earlier or get a good preseason projection
20 when this turns around then we'd be back to the normal
21 thing where you try to fish as the fish are coming in
22 because they move through there really quick, even though
23 it takes them over a month to get up here and we understand
24 that. We're going to try to work out, you know, when the
25 runs do turnaround, how we're going to do that. But right
26 now they're looking at no commercial and we'll see how it
27 goes for subsistence restrictions for the summer season.

28
29 Fall season, I believe we'll also be
30 looking at -- this next coming parent years will be a
31 little bit -- we had really good escapement for last year's
32 run and this particular run, both of the escapements were
33 really high. This next year we have one really good one
34 and one, it's still -- it wasn't a poor escapement but it
35 was lower than -- it wasn't one of those years that we met
36 all of our areas. So that, coupled with the poor return
37 that we're getting instead of a high of -- you know,
38 normally the average is, I think two something return per
39 spawner but we have had it as high as four return per
40 spawner, right now we're at .5 or .8, I mean really low,
41 and that will be factored into the preseason projection,
42 and it could be low also and we'll see where that ends up
43 next year. But most likely there will not be any
44 commercial fishing on fall chum either and we'll have to
45 see where it comes out on the projections for the plan in
46 order to decide what we're going to do with the
47 subsistence.

48
49 MR. JAMES: Bonnie, this is Davey. Mr.

50 Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Davey.

2

3 MR. JAMES: You know, during the
4 teleconference in June I opposed the opening of commercial
5 fishing down there at the mouth, mainly I opposed it
6 because I was looking at your management plan there and
7 there was not enough fish coming in there. So I just
8 assumed that you guys went ahead and opened it anyway and
9 you guys went ahead and opened it anyway because you guys
10 were -- I just assumed that you guys were taking that on
11 account that during the teleconference the majority of the
12 lower people at the mouth stated that they caught their
13 subsistence needs. And even through the amount of fish
14 coming through never -- it never matched up with your
15 numbers there, you know, I was looking at that and I
16 opposed that and I should have put that on the record
17 there, and I did oppose that in June, the second week in
18 June when I was on that teleconferences. Nobody else never
19 said nothing on the teleconference there.

20

21 It just seems like you're catering to those
22 people down there, they're getting the best of two worlds,
23 you know. They're going to be commercial people there and
24 then they want to be subsistence, which we just helped them
25 out yesterday, they can commercial on the mouth and run up
26 to Y2 and subsist. I think Gerald and Craig are right, you
27 know, you need to look at the whole river. And you really
28 need to look at the water level, you need to factor the
29 water table into your calculations. Because all summer long
30 we had high water and the fish was just going -- just
31 swimming by there.

32

33 And we really need to have a king salmon
34 management plan, a different one in place, and we need to
35 develop that this winter, right away. We need to relook at
36 our salmon management plan, too.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Bonnie, when the commercial
41 -- or when the subsistence openers are set, I'm assuming
42 that you start at the mouth of the river?

43

44 MS. BORBA: Mr. Chair, the subsistence is
45 open in most areas seven days a week until -- they have to
46 do a closure before the open the commercial in the area
47 that's commercial fishing, everyone else stays on whatever
48 their normal schedule is.

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: I guess what I'm getting at

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1 here is, you're going to start actual fishing at the mouth
2 of the river and move up just as the salmon do, but are the
3 openers that are being set at the mouth set to guarantee
4 that there will be equivalent openers as you go up the
5 entire length of the river?

6
7 MR. JONES: No, it's based on the guideline
8 harvest ranges that are set by the Board as far as how much
9 we would let them catch. It's not going to end up to be
10 equal amount of time or, you know, it's what -- it's based
11 on the run, how many we feel we can take, and then whatever
12 level that the guideline harvest range is. Now, once we
13 start doing a regime on guideline harvest ranges, we try to
14 take, you know, in a good year, if we go to the midpoint at
15 lower river, we would try to go to the midpoint on all the
16 other districts. That doesn't always happen but that would
17 be the goal. But we still have to go with what the Board
18 has as far as allocation.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, if we're looking
21 strictly at a subsistence harvest for next year, as we may
22 be here, my concern is that it be distributed fairly and
23 evenly along the length of the river, and that the upper
24 river not receive less than the lower.

25
26 MS. BORBA: At this point we don't have
27 allocations for subsistence and that would have to be
28 something -- I mean for us to have the power to totally
29 restrict lower so that upper gets the same amount. I
30 believe it's something we're going to have to go to the
31 Board, to be able to be allowed to do that. I don't know
32 if the Feds can.....

33
34 MR. MILLARD: I believe this needs to be
35 investigated. But again, that's an allocative type issue,
36 and at the present time we can do time and area closures
37 but as far as gear types and allocation, it's very
38 difficult. I think we need additional expertise on
39 allocating. In other words, cutting -- they can take 95
40 percent of their fish in the three days in the lower river,
41 how do we allocate where they get 50 percent and Fort Yukon
42 also gets 50 percent of their needs. It's a very
43 complicated issue. But again it's something that can be
44 investigated, post-season.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Do we have people back here
49 that wish to speak?

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1 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I have another
2 question. Monty, you know that's where I get on these
3 teleconferences and the people are saying they're getting
4 their 50 percent down in Kotlik or whatever and Emmonak,
5 when they say they get 50 percent, why don't you guys just
6 cut them off and let everything pass and then give the
7 upriver a change, at least, to make 20 percent here, and at
8 least make 30 percent up there.

9
10 You know, on those teleconferences, too, I
11 want -- like I guess we told Dan, after we hear their
12 parts, they hang up. They don't hear our side of the
13 story. And another thing, on this coordinating fisheries
14 thing, is that, it seems like I'm the only one there all
15 the time. I show up everywhere you guys want me to go.
16 And when we request them to show up over here, only Robert
17 Nick showed up. There's got to be more --if you're put on
18 that coordinating fisheries committee from your Board you
19 got to participate. How is that going to work if there's
20 no participation from the other RACs? It started out
21 pretty good but it didn't end up pretty good in my
22 feelings. Because it seems like I'm the only one there all
23 the time.

24
25 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, that's a very good
26 point. I believe that's something that needs to be
27 addressed more fully, you know, post-season when we get
28 into preseason planning and we get into discussing and
29 evaluating what went right and what went wrong. These are
30 the types of issues that needs to be brought out during the
31 protocol development in preseason planning, exactly.

32
33 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Craig.

36
37 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, Gerald has a valid
38 point about trying to distribute the fish evenly, but I
39 think that would be almost an impossible task unless we do
40 what we discussed yesterday and that is to find out what
41 people's needs are in each of the communities. And it goes
42 back to us managing sort of blindly because we don't really
43 have a full understanding of what the subsistence need is.
44 We have an understanding of the take, but doesn't
45 necessarily mean need or it doesn't meet need, and so I
46 think that's something that we need to really look at
47 addressing pretty darn quick if we're going to --
48 especially if we're ever going to look at the allocation
49 issue.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Vince.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, in Tab D, I did a
4 summary of attendance of all the Regional Council members
5 and there is a high level of participation in the Yukon
6 River. Next time I'll have it numbered but it's about -- I
7 don't know it's about halfway into Tab B. It's memo to Don
8 Rivard, September 12th, 2000. In future books, what we'll
9 do is we'll number these pages but -- has everybody found,
10 it's kind of a chart that looks like this. The reason I'm
11 bringing it up is there is -- it's the first year we've
12 done it. My assessment of it is we had a pretty high
13 involvement of Regional Council members. The YK -- Yukon
14 Kuskokwim really didn't officially appoint anybody yet
15 because that concept, they hadn't gotten around to or it
16 wasn't on their agenda, so the Chair, Harry Wilde of
17 Mountain Village is also the co-chair on the Yukon River
18 Fisheries Drainage Association, so he wears double hats
19 there, and then John Hanson was also recommended by Harry
20 Wilde. So there is some there, at times they couldn't make
21 it. They did have valid excuses, for example, Mr. Hanson
22 couldn't make it, they had a bear that was digging into
23 their cemetery there and he had to deal with the bear
24 situation and reburying what was dug up so he couldn't make
25 a meeting. So it's just something to point out. It's
26 something that maybe in January we're putting a lot of
27 stuff in January but maybe the coordinating fishery
28 committee for the Yukon could get together and just talk
29 this out and see how best.

30

31 Also I will be going and Donald will be
32 going and other Staff will be going to the YK meeting in
33 Kotlik, and I will impress upon Harry that they need to
34 kind of officially appoint two members on there so they're
35 clear. And then on the Kuskokwim they only had one member
36 and that was Robert Nick, so they need to get two members
37 there, on the Kuskokwim.

38

39 So that kind of gives you an idea of what
40 has transpired here on the coordinating fisheries
41 committee. And the way we do your committee meetings, not
42 the YRFDA, is I get input from Monty who gets input from
43 the State that we're at a key junction point. And if time
44 allows we try to get the full committee together. But as
45 the season moved along we didn't have that luxury. And I
46 think Monty and his Staff did a super job of seeking you
47 guys out on Sunday nights for decisions that had to be made
48 Monday. So it's things we're going to have to work with
49 but I think for the first year it worked, in my assessment

50 a lot better than I ever expected. But there is need for

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1 improvement, so that's the way the coordinating fisheries
2 committee. And both Davey and Gerald and Benedict and
3 Micky and John and Harry, for those that haven't listened
4 in on these teleconferences, a lot of people do not talk.
5 A lot of people do not ask questions. I would say those
6 six members participated every teleconference, meaning
7 actively participated. So that goes back to what I was
8 talking about yesterday. If you're one of these members
9 and you can get more people there at the time, the
10 teleconference is going and get them to share their
11 percentages, their concerns, then other parts of the river
12 will understand them.

13

14 So anyways, I just wanted to point that
15 out to you on there so there is some improvement. But,
16 overall, for the first year -- another example, when a
17 person couldn't make it, for example, Micky couldn't make
18 one meeting from Nulato because that's when he had a
19 subsistence opening so he was out fishing, and he fished
20 through the night to get it done so he was too tired to
21 listen on the teleconference. So that's another thing that
22 Dan brought up well the other night and I think he brought
23 up here, as this pulse of fish moves along, they can't be
24 sitting in in a teleconference as the fish pass by. So
25 enough said on that.

26

27 But anyways, I think in January we need to
28 have the coordinating fishery committee maybe go off on
29 their own and if you want Staff there to listen in or help,
30 fine, if not, talk it over among yourselves and get this --
31 get it working out better.

32

33 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Davey.

36

37 MR. JAMES: I have a few comments on that
38 teleconference. I don't know how influenced we are, you
39 know, because I voted against this opening, commercial
40 opening and -- but it just seems like we're just a token,
41 we don't have much influence on these teleconferences at
42 all. And we need to relook at that and see how we can make
43 it better. Because it seems like if we bring something up
44 and nobody don't say nothing, you know, and I think we're
45 going to have to bring it up in motions or how -- because
46 all we bring up is the high water is coming through, we're
47 not catching the fish, they're going through. What are you
48 expecting from us? I mean we're not catching the fish. We
49 know, our traditional people are saying that -- the

50 elderlies are saying the fish is going through, it's coming

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1 through, you know. I mean what are you expecting from us
2 at these teleconferences? And when we do make our
3 position, you know, it seems like the last two years, you
4 guys went ahead and did your own anyway and we are
5 overlooked. So I think at this next committee meeting,
6 whenever we have it, we need to -- as I stressed to Patty
7 Fox [sic], and especially to the managers last year, all
8 through the years that a majority of the money needs to be
9 spent on planning for the first couple years, you need to
10 do a lot of planning and a lot of meetings to see how we're
11 going to get this thing right and take all the loopholes
12 out. Because I really believe in planning and workshops,
13 you know, and not just this meeting on teleconference and
14 meeting once or twice a year and then just forget about it.
15 We need to do more of this and more of that money needs to
16 be spent in planning and I so believe that.

17

18 Maybe you need to do it individually as we
19 move down the village, you know, the mouth, the middle, the
20 lower and the mouth and do it again, follow that back up
21 again. I know some of you guys don't have the time to do
22 it but you know we need to find people that have the time
23 to do the planning, to have a good plan because we can't
24 keep coming back and coming back.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, I think some of
29 these questions and concerns, as we go through the protocol
30 might start falling out. And again, you know, we will be
31 addressing the protocol again in the last week of November.
32 We'd like to invite you to come in so Davey James can be --
33 express to ADF&G, to a larger ADF&G staff and to the
34 Federal Staff. Davey's concerns are listened to, at the
35 same time Davey's speaking we're still having claims from
36 the lower river that there's lots of fish, where are the
37 fish going, we need to have a commercial opening in the
38 lower river when the upper river folks are just begging for
39 subsistence. The Yukon River, just try to put it in
40 perspective, you know, it runs a distance say from Illinois
41 to the Pacific Coast. We have Davey in Illinois and we
42 have Harry Wilde on the Pacific Coast and we have all these
43 villages, all these states, all these regions in between
44 and we have to balance out what we're hearing at all areas.
45 And I'd like to compliment the State, I know there's
46 concerns about what occurred this year but Tom Vonya and
47 Bonnie Borba spent 12 hours a day, seven days a week
48 analyzing information, making phone calls and they did an
49 outstanding job. There were some disagreements early in

50 the season with some philosophies but I think those have

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1 been corrected. Again, that's for the protocol and the
2 preseason planning and we'll have to play a much larger
3 part this next year.

4

5 But with the Chair's permission, maybe we
6 can move into the protocol, it's your choice.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOOD: If there are no further
9 questions or comments, I think we got about three years.

10

11 MR. NICHOLIA: Next year in your in-season
12 managing plan, I don't like to see politics in there. I
13 don't like to see down river requesting Tony Knowles or
14 Senator Stevens or Don Young or Murkowski, I want you guys
15 to use management agencies, no politics.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Could you come forward to
18 the microphone, please, well, both of you might as well.

19

20 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, when I was at the
21 Western Interior, it was brought up by Tom Vonya that there
22 was going to be commercial restrictions, possibly no
23 commercial season and then personal use and then he said
24 something about we may start the season off with
25 subsistence restrictions. And that just rung a bell right
26 off the bat because I haven't heard nothing about that.
27 And you know, we went through the whole season on the upper
28 part of the Yukon with virtually no subsistence season. A
29 lot of people did not meet their subsistence needs and you
30 know, I hear what Davey's saying about the teleconferences
31 and stuff, nobody's saying nothing, but, you know, a lot of
32 people are being heard. And you know, earlier in the
33 season I was in constant contact with Tom Khron and the
34 possibilities of a subsistence restrictions on the
35 Kuskokwim was coming down. So our villages are so far up
36 the Kuskokwim we decided to write a letter of support for
37 this restriction just for the sake of the conservation of
38 the fish. And eventually that subsistence restrictions
39 were in place. But when it came to the Yukon and the
40 request was asked of Tanana Chiefs, would they write a
41 similar letter of support for restrictions for subsistence
42 fishing on the Yukon, we could not after polling the
43 villages, nobody was meeting their needs for fish, and we
44 could not -- I could not put my name on something like
45 that.

46

47 I feel that there is something definitely
48 wrong in the way it's being managed, you know. Now, I hear
49 about this allocation of subsistence fishing. How you

50 going to allocate something like that, when you think about

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1 it most of the villages from Y4 on up are subsistence
2 fishermen, and if that's the case then we should be getting
3 the bulk of the fish. But unfortunately that's not the
4 case. So we're going to see what happens, what unfolds out
5 of this.

6

7 I know US Fish and Wildlife and ADF&G had a
8 tough time at this, I know. I certainly wouldn't want to
9 be in their shoes. But, you know, that's just the way it
10 goes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Gabe.

13

14 MR. FLIRRIS: Bill Flirris from Tanana.
15 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to talk about chinook salmon
16 specifically, and what I'd like to say is that, you know,
17 it's obvious we're getting into trouble with our king
18 salmon now. We've had trouble in the past with the fall
19 chums but I think it's a different situation when you get
20 into these kinds of problems with chinook salmon
21 productivity. We don't know what the reasons are but
22 apparently we're going to be in for some hard times with
23 the king run here and it's going to take longer probably to
24 fix that problem than with the chums because it's an older
25 fish and there's more age classes that contribute to the
26 run.

27

28 In the meantime you're dealing with a fish
29 that has the most value as a subsistence fish to humans,
30 all up and down the river. And there's a lot of pressure
31 to get those fish and you have to realize that in the lower
32 Yukon, they have a different perception of subsistence than
33 we do in the upper river. They actually feel strongly that
34 subsistence fishing is commercial fishing, that they need
35 to have a certain amount of commercial fishing time in
36 order to meet their subsistence needs for other things,
37 that cash is so important to them. And they're sincere
38 about that, it's not a joke, that's the way they feel about
39 it. And so they're able to apply a lot of pressure every
40 year when it's time to go fishing for king salmon in the
41 lower river. And quite frankly I don't have the faith in
42 the State management system to withstand the kind of
43 pressure that they apply. I think they caved in this year
44 when they shouldn't have. You know, there was some
45 indication that we maybe could support a small harvest and
46 based on that, and since the guideline harvest range down
47 there doesn't go down to zero, it's really hard for them to
48 say we're not going to give you any opportunities. Also
49 there's less management tools available for the king

50 salmon, they can't use the Pilot Station sonar project as a

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1 management tool, so they're using primarily those test nets
2 at the mouth and those test nets have changed in the last
3 few years. They indicate differently than they did before.
4 At least half of them are to where, apparently, you know,
5 if you look at the numbers, they're catching a lot of fish
6 compared to years in the past but that doesn't mean that
7 there are a lot of fish, they've just become better sites
8 for some reason or the other. And once the kings get past
9 there, they're going up river and all you got is your
10 subsistence take on the rest of the river to compare with.
11 This year, in the case of all that high water, like Davey
12 said, there wasn't any fish being caught, so you know it
13 was really hard to tell what was going on.

14

15 But the group down at the lower Yukon and
16 AVCP, they're very influential in the Governor's office,
17 they're able to apply a lot more pressure than I think
18 we've ever been able to, and they more or less say, you
19 know, well, give us a short opening here just to see if you
20 guys are right about what you're saying, we'll call it a
21 test opening and we won't take that many fish and they'll
22 all get used and we all need to meet our subsistence needs,
23 you know, in general, and you know they get their way so
24 when you look at these protocols that Monty's talking about
25 it seems to me that you need to put more power on the
26 Federal side to say, no, we're just not comfortable with it
27 at all and just basically a veto power and , no, we can't
28 go commercial fishing until we get these runs back into
29 shape and I'm a commercial fisherman. I'll tell you,
30 Davey, what you said on those YRFDA conferences is true,
31 but basically it was a lot of people that are sitting there
32 being hopeful and thinking, well, you know, maybe those
33 guys in the lower river are right, maybe there's more fish
34 than what the Department thinks, maybe we can't have some
35 commercial openings, I mean I want commercial openings.
36 But I'm really nervous about it, it's just got to the point
37 where we almost have to declare a moratorium on commercial
38 fishing for awhile, and I hate to even say that because
39 there have been times like in '87, when the Department was
40 so convinced that there wasn't going to be any fish on this
41 river that they told us in advance, there will be no
42 commercial fishing, what happened, it's almost like God
43 punched them in the face and said, here, we can show you
44 something, there's going to be lots of fish, we had so many
45 fish, it was incredible in '87, so you never know what's
46 going to happen and under those circumstances, you know,
47 you - it's like Monty said, it's hard, but the way I feel
48 is right now we've got to be real, real careful with these
49 chinooks.

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1 And another thing I'd like to point out is,
2 if they do, for whatever reason, if limited commercial
3 fishing anywhere on this river, especially in the lower
4 Yukon now, you need to step up enforcement because this
5 year they were getting over five dollars a pound for those
6 fish, one 20 pound salmon is worth \$100, that's a big
7 temptation. If you allow processors to open up, even for
8 one day, that's an invitation for subsistence fish to get
9 into the commercial market. And I have some personal
10 evidence this year that it was going on, that there were
11 fishing coming out of Y2, well, after the commercial season
12 was closed and being processed in the Kenai -- in a cannery
13 on the Kenai Peninsula. And I can't, you know, prove it,
14 but I'm pretty sure that that was going on. And when
15 you've got those fish worth that much money, there's going
16 to be a lot of pirating if there's any commercial
17 opportunities at all.

18
19 Thanks Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Vince, did you have
22 something?

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wanted
25 to respond to Davey's thing about influence. I think
26 you're right at the right at the right spot. Basically
27 this is a new program for the Federal Subsistence Program
28 and in that four short months of setting it up, you had the
29 ear of the in-season management who was seeking to call you
30 out on Sunday nights to find out a decision on Monday. He
31 knows that your influence with the Board is fairly high, he
32 didn't move until he talked to you, so one, you had an ear.
33 Two, in your annual report you requested a river-wide
34 salmon management plan, the Board supports that and then it
35 strongly recommends to the Sate, that a reviewed and
36 revised 1998 plan be undertaken and a partnership with the
37 Federal managers and the Regional Councils, so Bingo,
38 you're right there.

39
40 Now, I'm not expecting the plan to be done
41 overnight so I'm not that naive, but the point is is that
42 you now are in the seat to push to have that plan revised.
43 So it is difficult when you're concerns and requests are not
44 taken but they're being heard with a program that's only
45 been in existence for a few months, where it took maybe a
46 longer time, maybe years in my opinion, to have that same
47 thing happen with YRFDA to get the ear of the Sate managers
48 and the Board of Fisheries. So your curve of influence has
49 been a lot steeper than the others but it has a ways to go.

50 So would encourage you, when we get to the annual report

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1 thing, to talk about when you want to schedule having this
2 plan on your agenda. I have copies of the plan, I didn't
3 bring them out here because the agenda was too packed but
4 -- I mean you're in that channel now on the Federal side to
5 do that and if the State agrees to revising the plan and
6 addressing it as a partnership, you're kind of sitting at
7 the table in my assessment.

8

9 So with that I'll stop but there is
10 improvement that needs to be done on influence but the
11 shortness of this program and, in fact, I'm amazed how
12 quickly it was open to input.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Vince, could we simply
15 request that that be on our next agenda?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Sure.

18

19 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Craig.

22

23 MR. FLEENER: I have a question, if it's
24 true what Bill said about the difficulty of assessing the
25 run strength because of the placement of these nets at the
26 mouth of the river, is there another way we can do it that
27 can give us better numbers? I mean if we're overestimating
28 the population because of the placement of these nets, can
29 we do something else? I mean the answer to that is, yes,
30 we can always do something else but what can we do?

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Bonnie.

33

34 MS. BORBA: Yes, Mr. Chairman and Craig.
35 The nets still tell us when the pulses are coming in and
36 which mouth they're coming in and those different things.
37 The problems with abundance, I mean, we're looking into
38 right now, they have a drift test fishery going on at the
39 same time and drifting is different than the set nets and
40 we have to correlate those for a couple years and take a
41 look at it, that's the one thing they have going right,
42 trying to find a better way to use some kind of gear to get
43 an assessment on abundance. I don't know what else they've
44 got in the plans.

45

46 MR. FLEENER: Is it impossible to do it the
47 same way that they're doing chum salmon?

48

49 MS. BORBA: We're having the same problems

50 in the fall season with the fall chum salmon and those net

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1 sizes. We're looking at the possibility of drift programs
2 also. But in the fall chum, we have the advantage of -- or
3 we, at least, get to be able to use Pilot Station sonar
4 numbers and it's more difficult for chinook and they were
5 looking into it and different ways of doing it. I am not
6 sure how far they got. They were going to attempt it last
7 year and then something came up at the last minute and they
8 chose not to use Pilot, so I'm not sure what they've got in
9 the plans to find another solution to that.

10

11 MR. FLEENER: Why is it more difficult for
12 chinook?

13

14 MS. BORBA: They can't tell a chinook from
15 the chums. There's so many summer chum, normally going
16 through at the same time as the chinook and you're counting
17 the swim bladder and the angle of it to the beams and so
18 they can't really tell them apart. The only thing they're
19 getting that from is, you know, they're doing their nets,
20 drifting through the beam so they can get their
21 apportionment but it's still different and it's because the
22 chinook are such a small population compared to the number
23 of summer chum you usually get it's very hard to get an
24 accurate number on the number of chinook.

25

26 MR. FLEENER: Thank you.

27

28 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, just one brief
29 comment to Bill Flirris and maybe give you an idea of how
30 difficult it is in-season for us to say no commercial
31 fishing. Davey's comments were heard this year, there were
32 some attempts to work with the State and then they
33 certainly listened when I indicated that we need to look at
34 the commercial fishing more carefully, however, pre-season,
35 we indicated to people that there might be 20,000 -- a
36 possibility of 20,000 chinook harvested. I think in the
37 future of we say zero to 10,000 it's going to make it much
38 easier. But they also and logically came to me and said,
39 where is your evidence? And if you look at the special
40 actions that's been passed out, I think to possibly all of
41 you, there's a long list of justifications. What the
42 various test sites, what the sonar shows, what weirs are
43 showing, you have to have the justification and do a
44 special action to close anything. And so therefore, it's
45 not an easy solution just to say, no more commercial
46 fishing when you don't have any information. It really
47 boils down to that.

48

49 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, just a short

50 follow-up on that. I mean I realize the difficulty --

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1 well, maybe I don't fully realize it but I know it's
2 difficult to do this in-season management, but it seems
3 like we still -- we keep going back to how hard it is to
4 manage for the commercial fishery, but we need to keep in
5 focus, and I think we keep forgetting that subsistence is a
6 greater priority, and I think all of us here at the table,
7 also like Bill, want there to be enough fish for everyone
8 to have a commercial take. But when we have concerns that
9 the commercial take -- or if when we have concerns that
10 there isn't enough for a commercial take then I don't see
11 why we have such a hard time saying, well, it looks like
12 it's going to be low so we're just going to say no, you
13 know, because we have to meet our first and second
14 priority, which is escapement and subsistence. And because
15 of not doing that this year, maybe -- I mean we didn't take
16 a whole lot for commercial but that played a little bit
17 into it because of not paying close attention to that this
18 year and in other years, and in Canada in the past, you
19 know, escapement numbers weren't reached. And I think
20 we're going to have to play a little bit more hardball with
21 commercial fishing.

22

23 I mean that's the third priority, for
24 goodness sake, and we keep skirting around the fact that we
25 have to meet escapement first, subsistence second,
26 commercial third. And we always seem to be thinking, gosh,
27 we got to do something about commercial. And I realize
28 that it's a multi-million dollar thing going on in the
29 state, but you know that should be the third thing on the
30 list and it's not because there's so much money involved.
31 We have to keep in mind that, I'll say it one last time,
32 but we have to keep in mind that escapement and subsistence
33 are the first two priorities and everybody has to get it
34 out of their mind that we have to find a way to open a
35 commercial season because that's the third thing on the
36 tier. That's the bottom thing on the totem pole, but we're
37 not doing that. We're paying so much attention to try and
38 meet commercial needs, that that's where we're putting all
39 our effort into it. If there wasn't a commercial harvest,
40 we probably wouldn't have test nets and wheels down at the
41 mouth, you know, nobody would care, I assume. But it's
42 such a huge thing with money that it becomes a super
43 priority and I'm not saying this to pick on anybody that's
44 a commercial fisherman because I want there to be a
45 commercial opener as well. But the fact is we have to meet
46 our first priority first and then our second priority and
47 then if there's enough left over, then we try to meet the
48 third priority.

49

But we're not doing that, it's not in our

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1 mind set and I hear it from almost everyone that's talking
2 that we keep thinking about the importance of meeting this
3 commercial need.

4

5 Thanks.

6

7 MR. MILLARD: Shall we move on into
8 protocol and maybe we can continue the discussion as we go
9 through the protocol?

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Please.

12

13 MR. MILLARD: I'd just like to direct you
14 to the Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Salmon Fishery
15 Management Protocol for the year 2000, and I stress it's
16 for the year 2000. It's towards the end of D. It's
17 probably about 20 pages back from E, towards the end of D
18 and the pages aren't numbered.

19

20 I'm not going to read every word of this,
21 I'm just going to pull out a few items and as I go through
22 I'll direct you to the page and to the paragraph. But the
23 protocol is to provide a frame work for coordinated
24 subsistence fisheries management between the Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game and the Federal Subsistence
26 Management Program during the 2000 salmon fishing season in
27 the Yukon River drainage.

28

29 On the next page under justification for
30 protocol, the first paragraph. With implementation of a
31 Federal subsistence fisheries management program, Federal
32 and State in-season management actions, if not coordinated
33 with each other, have the potential to cause unnecessary
34 disruption to establish fisheries, confusion among
35 fisheries and unintended misunderstandings between Federal
36 and State managers. Third paragraph, Yukon River drainage
37 salmon fisheries require intensive in-season management
38 because vary in run sizes and timing and the inability to
39 accurately forecast abundance for pre-season. Under
40 coordinating fishery management, at the bottom of the page,
41 first paragraph, the intent of this protocol is to
42 formalize the working relationships between State and
43 Federal managers and foster cooperation with Regional
44 Advisory Councils and fisheries interest groups. Under
45 coordinated management system, in-season subsistence
46 management will remain primarily a State function except
47 where required on applicable Federal waters. Pre-season
48 planning, Page 3, and again, I think a lot of the comments
49 that we've heard today can be, not eliminated, but can be

50 helped by proper pre-season planning. And we will be

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1 working closely with the State and with the RACs to develop
2 a better pre-season plan this coming year. I'll read the
3 first paragraph, State managers will provide Federal
4 managers with draft pre-season management plans, these are
5 fishery outlook and management strategies. Federal
6 managers will review these plans with the affected Regional
7 Advisory Councils to identify any potential conservation
8 concerns and issues that may arise associated with meeting
9 subsistence users of qualified Federal users on applicable
10 Federal waters. Under in-season management, first
11 paragraph, information from in-season stock and harvest
12 assessments provide the basis for in-season management
13 decisions to open, close or modify fishing seasons, fishing
14 periods or areas. Second paragraph, during the season,
15 extensive involvement of fishers through YRFDA provides
16 input to the decision-making process. Managers also meet
17 with other organizations, communities on management issues.
18 I think also there it should have, just as an editorial
19 thing, should have the coordinating fisheries committee.

20
21 On the next page, Page 4, second paragraph,
22 Federal managers are responsible for the management of
23 subsistence fishing by qualified rural residents in
24 applicable Federal waters. Federal managers shall seek the
25 advice of the coordinating fisheries committee members if
26 time permits. Time is of the essence in issuing special
27 actions and interagency consultation shall not delay the
28 timely issues of special actions. Next paragraph, Federal
29 and State consensus on in-season management decisions may
30 not always be achieved. If differences cannot be
31 reconciled respective agencies may implement actions in
32 accordance with their agency's mandates and applicable
33 regulations for waters under their respective
34 jurisdictions.

35
36 Post-season evaluation. State managers will
37 prepare their annual fishing season summary report and
38 Federal managers will provide a review of input from
39 Federal agencies and subsistence users, evaluation of
40 interagency coordination and recommendations. Federal
41 managers will include Regional Councils and their post-
42 season review, and today is just a portion of that post-
43 season review.

44
45 I think probably the meat of this
46 particular protocol is to help us understand where all of
47 us can work together more closely and again it's these
48 roles which the Councils should take a look at, post-season
49 to see if there is any way that we can improve upon them.

50 And I would just like to go through these roles and then

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1 we'll address any questions that you may have.

2

3 Regional Councils, subsistence users and
4 other affected public interests, they should review pre-
5 season management plans to identify resource and
6 subsistence concerns, participate in meetings between State
7 and Federal managers and fishery interest groups before,
8 during and after the season. Receive relevant State and
9 Federal in-season news releases. Participate in post-
10 season reviews and evaluations. Federal managers,
11 participate in State pre-season and in-season meetings and
12 conference calls with fishery interest groups. Provide
13 input to the State during the development of the 2000 and
14 this coming year 2001, Yukon area, pre-season management
15 plan. Share fishery information with State managers in a
16 timely manner. Provide input to State managers as
17 decisions on fishery openings and closings are being made
18 and meet with State managers as needed. Issue Federal
19 special actions and news releases. Receive relevant State
20 emergency orders and news releases. Participate in post-
21 season review and evaluations with the State managers and
22 coordinate with the coordinating fisheries committee and
23 other affected interests.

24

25 Now, the State managers, their
26 responsibilities according to the protocol of the year
27 2000. Participate in meetings with fisheries interest
28 groups, subsistence users and Federal managers before,
29 during and after the season. Finalize the 2000 and coming
30 up on 2001 Yukon area pre-season management plan. This is
31 the fisheries outlook and management strategies. And this,
32 I think, is a very important one for all of us here in this
33 room. Share fishery management information with Federal
34 managers in a timely manner to monitor in-season fish runs.
35 Consult with Federal managers during the season to issue
36 State emergency orders and news releases. Receive relevant
37 Federal news releases and Federal emergency orders and
38 conduct post-season reviews and evaluations which Bonnie's
39 doing today.

40

41 But I don't think there's anything else in
42 here that I really need to give to you because you
43 certainly have it in front of you.

44

45 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have a question.
46 When do you think that the pre-season management plan will
47 be finalized.

48

49 MR. MILLARD: Back on post-season

50 evaluation it had some dates, it was on Page 4, Federal and

00157

1 State managers need to prepare brief joint summary by
2 December 1.

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Monty, can you turn on the
5 mic.

6

7 MR. MILLARD: Excuse me. Page 4, it says
8 that by December 1 there's to be a brief joint season
9 summary report for the State Board of Fisheries and Federal
10 Subsistence Board by December 1. And at the present time,
11 I believe the summary report will also serve as a basis for
12 pre-season discussions for the 2001 fishing season. And I
13 believe we indicated that we were going to try to have a
14 draft pre-season plan for the January session, do you
15 remember?

16

17 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I think that's a
18 good idea. This is -- I take it that the December 1
19 meeting will probably be a closed meeting; is this correct?

20

21 MS. FOX: No.

22

23 MR. FLEENER: I's going to be an opening
24 meeting, others can participate or at least sit in and
25 listen on? Where is this meeting going to be held at?

26

27 MS. FOX: Can I answer that? Thank you.
28 This is Peggy Fox, Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Chair,
29 the purpose of setting the December 1st date was to have
30 that report available for the Board to hear it, the results
31 of that report during the first week in December meeting
32 when they take up fisheries regulatory proposals. And so
33 it would be during that three days, right now we're
34 anticipating a three day Board public meeting, the 4th, 5th
35 and 6th, I believe, in Anchorage. So at that time Council
36 Chairs will be there and other public can hear the
37 discussion.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you.

42

43 MR. FLEENER: Thanks, Peggy.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other comments. Vince.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the way I
48 understood it from the Nulato meeting was that this was
49 just the protocol for the 2000 season. That there'll be

50 the meeting, like he's mentioned, in November where you'll

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1 have to give us an indication of who's going to review the
2 protocol and talk about the season. But my understanding
3 is there'll be a -- I don't know, a new protocol available
4 at your January meeting to look at. And then back to the
5 other question, on the preseason, you'll be meeting in
6 February or March, so there is another backstop to that
7 pre-season one. I'm not saying they can't 'make it by
8 January but there is that backstop that you'll be meeting
9 in public session in February and March.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other comments. I'd
12 like to make one. That is, that this Council is tasked
13 with providing a subsistence priority for rural Alaskans
14 and particularly those living in the Eastern Interior. And
15 at this point, you know, looking at the fact that a
16 subsistence priority should not be greater for people say
17 down river on the Yukon than it is upriver and believing
18 that, I have to say, this Council has to look at itself and
19 evaluate itself, if there's anything we could have done, we
20 failed. We find that we and the people in our area have
21 not been provided for as well as people down river. And I
22 don't think we like failing. And we would ask what there
23 is that can be done to provide for the people of this
24 region in a more equitable fashion.

25

26 MR. MILLARD: I think, one thing, it's just
27 a personal philosophy, we have the fall chum management
28 plan, which helps tremendously to guide us through the fall
29 chum season. It's not a perfect document and it can be
30 worked upon by the RACs and by the Fishery Board. However,
31 chinook management is extremely difficult. And any type of
32 chinook management plan that can be developed by the RACs,
33 ADF&G and Federal managers would be much appreciated so we
34 can come to you and say, this is what we agreed to and this
35 is why we're managing in this manner. I don't have any
36 idea at this point what it would look like, but in some
37 manner we have to get the fisher's approval for some of our
38 management actions so that it will help guide us and then
39 there won't be these incessant arguments about upriver,
40 down river; this is what we agreed to.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOOD: You know, the one thing
43 that I really want to make clear is I don't really think
44 we're arguing about upriver, down river, we're only talking
45 about equity.

46

47 MR. MILLARD: Point well taken.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Bill.

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1 MR. FLIRRIS: Bill Flirris from Tanana.
2 Mr. Chairman, I think for this region, in particular,
3 you're going to have to take a close look at what goes on
4 in 5D. It's predominately subsistence. There is hardly
5 any commercial interests there. What commercial licenses
6 there are there haven't been used in a long time.

7
8 Every year they catch it in the shorts
9 because they're so far away, you know, they're the last
10 district on the river and they have, you know, probably the
11 highest need for food for people, just that subsistence
12 need. And you know, it comes up in the YRFDA meetings all
13 the time and we need to figure out a way to probably not
14 have total closures in that area. I mean we do better down
15 here. I think we're more productive and we always get --
16 if we get some chance at all we always get some subsistence
17 fish put up. And just about the time that they know it's a
18 total failure, they shut it off right when the fish are
19 arriving in 5D, Fort Yukon and further up and they get
20 none. And it's causing a lot of, you know, bad feelings on
21 the river. And we're not doing anything -- nobody's doing
22 anything specifically to address that problem. So if
23 there's a way -- and it's not a big need, I mean it's --
24 like Davey pointed out, give them six, 12 hours a week,
25 anything. People can focus their effort in that time and
26 know it's available to get some fish for the table.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Bill.

31
32 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I wonder if it
33 would be possible to try to focus some sort of a management
34 effort on -- I don't know how it would be done but to look
35 at focusing a management effort on the last people to
36 receive fish -- the last people that have an opportunity
37 and of course it wouldn't stop at Fort Yukon, it would go
38 even further up the river. But I don't know how it would
39 be done and -- but I think it might be a good idea if we
40 could get into that sort of a mind set, is to think about
41 the last people on the river when we're looking at
42 management instead of taking a look at the first or second
43 or third pulse that's coming in the mouth, take a look at,
44 okay, now how are we going to meet the needs of these
45 people and the last people in the river who are going to
46 receive the least opportunity, the least fish, and will
47 potentially be cut off, you know, the greatest. And of
48 course, the last -- the furthest up people on the river
49 would be those in Canada and they're demanding their share

50 and we're working hard to give them their share but we're

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1 not really working very hard to give the people in the
2 Yukon Flats, the Porcupine River their share. So it seems
3 like that's one of the last things we try to manage for.

4
5 I think if we look at trying to manage for
6 the people furthest away from the mouth we might have a
7 better chance of helping those people meet their
8 subsistence needs.

9
10 Thanks.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any further comments.

13
14 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah. I'm going to mention
15 this again, it's just that it's predicted to be another bad
16 year, that's what I heard earlier, right? Well, there's
17 your preseason indicator for 2001. You could use that
18 prediction as to restrict commercial.

19
20 And another thing, is that, there's got to
21 be some way -- if they could meet all their subsistence
22 needs more than 75 percent in Y1 and Y2 on this YRFDA
23 teleconference, then restrict them so some of these people
24 up in this Eastern Interior area can meet some of their
25 subsistence needs. It's good that you let the first two
26 pulses go but restrict the third and fourth so that it will
27 get by to these people. If it's a bad season predicted in
28 2001, that is your indicator.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Paul.

31
32 MR. WILLIAMS: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. My
33 name is Paul Williams, I'm from Beaver. Currently employed
34 by the Fish and Wildlife Service as an information tech on
35 the Yukon Flats Animal Wildlife Refuge. I'd like to speak
36 as an elder, in a few days I'll be 64 years old.

37
38 I remember back in the early days, even
39 back in 1940, I remember that we live on the Yukon and in
40 them days we didn't worry about the number of fish, you
41 know, because we always got what we wanted. It's like
42 breathing air, you know, we don't worry about breathing
43 air, we don't take turns breathing air because there's
44 enough of it, and in them days there was enough timber,
45 there was enough -- we got along real good, you know. But
46 the way that we did it was you know by singing songs and
47 giving back some of the fish that we caught, some of it
48 back to the river and some of it back to the land and the
49 air and whatever we wish, you know, in terms of singing and

50 dancing. But you know we kind of got away from that, that

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1 way we get more fish next year, you know, we got -- we
2 don't only did that for fish, we did that for other animal
3 species, too, moose and caribou, whatever we get we give
4 some of it back. You know to make sure that we get it back
5 next season. But we kind of get away from that, too,
6 because it doesn't really fit in now that this modern -- we
7 call it modern but, you know, it seems like we're not doing
8 the way that makes sense, you know.

9

10 To us it makes sense to give some of that
11 fish back to the river and the land, but now, you know,
12 what makes sense now, you know -- what seems to be the
13 problem here is that -- what makes sense is what people
14 need, I think, Craig, he mentioned that this morning. He
15 said, you know, what are the needs of the people, let's
16 identify that. You know, this elder, Paul Williams, he
17 lives over in Beaver, you know, let's pick on him, let's go
18 over to him and say, Paul, how big is your family, you
19 know, how long you been living here and what do you know
20 about the fish and what are your needs, you know, what do
21 you expect, how much dry fish you need? And recently now
22 we're freezing that fish, you know, because we got freezers
23 now and things are kind of little bit changed, you know,
24 because we could freeze some of that fish and we got frozen
25 fish now, you know what are your needs? And then blah,
26 blah, blah, you give numbers here, you know, you need so
27 much salmon strips, you know, for this purpose and you give
28 it to your people and you -- when you travel around to the
29 village, you know, like Venetie or Arctic Village or to
30 Allakaket, other places where these things are hard to get,
31 you know, you bring that as a gift, you know, to the
32 people, and to your friends. And sometimes char fish --
33 and sometimes even wintertime, frozen fish, you know, when
34 there's potlatch, you know, there's a funuary potlatch, you
35 know, that kind of stuff, you go there and you bring a
36 little food, you know, either moose head or moose ribs,
37 moose cuts, you know, these are -- porcupine, beaver meat,
38 you know, all these kinds our elder people, they like to
39 eat that kind, you know. And these are the things that we
40 still continue to do.

41

42 So you know commercial and subsistence,
43 like Bill said, you know, they're serious about being
44 commercial because they need their subsistence needs, I can
45 understand that, you know. But we have a responsibility to
46 continue to make sure that this fish get up there and that
47 everybody kind of get -- sorry it has to be under Title
48 VIII of ANILCA but that's just the way things are now days,
49 you know, because we get preference because we like to live

50 the way we like to live and we like to be comfortable, and

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1 these are the responsibility that you guys are facing.

2

3 I'm just hear to tell you about what I
4 remember about long time ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you Paul.

7

8 MR. RAY: Stan Ray from Tanana. You
9 sometimes hear the comment and it's a valid comment but --
10 that we don't have -- it's really hard to manage or to
11 close or to deny commercial fishing and to, you know,
12 restrict subsistence fishing in the lower river with the
13 data that's available, like -- like what happened this
14 year, you know. And we're all talking about the need for
15 getting those fishes particularly up into the regions of
16 the river beyond Tanana here. And to me that's always been
17 a real sore spot, you know, our needs get met maybe half
18 the way, lower river needs get met all the way, and you'll
19 see the people upriver from here with no needs met. But it
20 seems to me that data of some sort does exist to allow
21 decisions to be made more in line -- you know, that data
22 does exist, conditions do exist -- it's our experience --
23 our experience in the past, in the last say 10 years, you
24 just look back, even -- even prior to these failed runs.
25 Our experience does -- this -- with what has happened when
26 -- like this year, exactly what happened this year has
27 happened many times in the past and it much more often
28 favors subsistence needs and commercial needs being met in
29 the lower river than up here.

30

31 Fish come into the mouth, it's a question
32 of whether, do we have enough fish to open commercial or
33 not, and it's right on that line and then something will --
34 either politics or a few more fish in a certain test net
35 trigger it and it's like, okay, we'll open commercial.
36 We'll give them a small commercial and then what happens,
37 it's -- as the fish progress upriver we find out it's a bum
38 run so the middle river gets cut down a little more. By
39 the time the fish get up to Fort Yukon, there's
40 restriction.

41

42 That kind of experience happening over and
43 over again, much more often on that side of the whatever,
44 graph, chart, line, whatever, to me is -- it's like it's
45 something that can be used. It's like it can be used to
46 say, well, if we're making this mistake in favor of the
47 lower river, you know, like 85 percent of the time when we
48 allow commercial openings, subsistence openings down at the
49 mouth at this level, to me that's valid data, it's the only

50 data, you know -- if it's the only data available, it's the

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1 best data, I mean, to me, if we're trying to make things
2 equitable we have to look real closely at what has taken
3 place in the past along those lines, and that, to me, would
4 be the most valid thing to look at and try to adjust that.
5 If we're going to have this management plan for chinook and
6 try to include some sort of equitable thing like that. And
7 like they say, we have projections that it's going to be a
8 bad run, I mean that fits right in with it, too, that makes
9 it even, you know, the need more necessary.

10

11 I don't know, I'm not going to stay too
12 much more, if you get my point.

13

14 And the thing is on the fall chum
15 management plan, you know, that fall chum plan, I don't
16 believe that has any -- you know, that's a good plan and
17 all that as far as whether we should open commercial or
18 subsistence or personal use and all that sort of stuff, it
19 has all those numbers right in line, but I don't think
20 there's anything in that plan that has this equity thing.
21 So maybe, while, you know, along with trying to put an
22 equity thing in the chinook plan, maybe we should go back
23 to the fall plan and make sure that it's an equitable
24 thing, too, because there's fall chum needs in the Upper
25 Yukon River beyond Tanana here too.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Stan.

30

31 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I wonder if it'd
32 be -- well, everybody's got the same sort of an idea it
33 seems like but it's real hard to come up with solutions.
34 And I don't know if we should have some sort of a -- and
35 maybe we are having, in the next few months, but some sort
36 of a get together of people on our Council and other
37 Councils to come up with actual solutions and -- or try to
38 come up with some solutions and not just talk about what
39 the problems are, we got to talk about the problems a
40 little bit, but try focusing on solutions.

41

42 Something that came to mind as we've been
43 talking and listening to some people's thoughts is, what
44 about managing the fishery where we manage it based on the
45 pulses or sections of the run and allow early runs to go
46 through for the sake of the people upriver and if we would
47 do that, it seems like we would reverse the roll of always
48 meeting down river needs and never meeting -- or rarely
49 meeting upriver needs, if we would allow the first pulse to

50 be used for the furthest upriver people, you know, and the

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1 second pulse to be used for meeting a little further down
2 the river and so on and so forth until people have chances
3 to meet their subsistence needs. Maybe we could determine,
4 and I know that there may be problems with that as well
5 because we have some weak pulses, but at least this way
6 more needs upriver can be met which seems to be where the
7 shortfall is other than shortfalls for escapement, of
8 course. But if we could allow some fish to go through,
9 specifically for portions of the river, and say the first
10 pulse be used for the upper river, so and so forth.

11

12 But that's just an idea that maybe we could
13 consider, people who have more fisheries experience, of
14 course, can probably digest that a lot better than I can.
15 But that's just one idea that might be useful.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Davey.

18

19 MR. JAMES: You know, I look forward to
20 working with you, Monty, because I know you guys are in a
21 tough position there. You know, you guys contacted me
22 quite a few times this summer there. But I'm going to
23 speak -- my name is David James and I'm going to speak (In
24 Native), from Fort Yukon, I'll turn my hat around and take
25 my position off as a Board member.

26

27 The Native Village Council has put us in
28 the hot seat there at the last meeting last month and
29 they're saying, what are you guys doing out there? We got
30 cut off again, the third year now, you know. And Craig was
31 there, we need to do something. We definitely do and I'm
32 glad you guys brought this up and they're bringing this up
33 at their annual meeting in three weeks from now. The only
34 thing on their agenda is the Federal Subsistence closure
35 for fishing, it's the main thing on their agenda there and
36 they're going to be discussing that there.

37

38 Maybe we need to -- they said maybe we need
39 to file a lawsuit because this is the third time we've
40 never met our needs and they've been cutting us off there.
41 And I told them I spoke on the teleconference to give us
42 just four hours three times, and last year, too, two years
43 ago, you know. And there's high water going through there
44 and people were saying they were -- just when they were
45 catching 50, 60 fish, they got cut off and a lot of people
46 was looking for that body up there this summer and they
47 never had a chance to go fishing. And we were drifting
48 looking for the body, we seen fish jumping left and right,
49 hey there's fish coming through all over the place, coming

50 through with the high water.

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1 As Linda Evans stated and Paul -- John
2 Starr, you guys are not using the elder's traditional
3 knowledge in your plan again. We, especially pushed that
4 through all last summer, through all these meetings,
5 where's our traditional knowledge. Not once as you guys
6 managed -- you managers has used our traditional knowledge
7 or even talked about traditional knowledge. There's four
8 fish wheels brand new, just sitting on the banks up there,
9 before they can put it in they were shut off. And three
10 people came in to set up their fish camps, they only put up
11 about five or six and they were shut off there.

12
13 I'd like to thank the people of the Fort
14 Yukon area and Circle and Beaver, they abide by the
15 regulations that you guys impose on us up there. They shut
16 their fish wheel off and they went back home, the heck with
17 this they said. They aren't going to fool with no law
18 enforcements coming up to them and dealing with giving them
19 citations up there. So they shut it off and they just went
20 home. I want to thank those people up there.

21
22 One other comment, one local person in Fort
23 Yukon there wanted me to express this, they're being
24 harassed by the law enforcement officers again up there.
25 They're being harassed on their own land there, watching
26 the fish wheels and watching the nets. They have fish nets
27 and they're four inch fish nets, mesh, law enforcement
28 officers came up there and took that fish net there and
29 spread it apart and said this is six inch, you're illegally
30 fishing here. I mean is that right there, Darryl, do you
31 guys, in the four inch -- we use the four inch, what -- do
32 you guys use the diagonal measurements of it after you
33 spread it apart. Well, I guess I could ask Bonnie, Bonnie
34 might know that.

35
36 TROOPER HILDEBRAND: Well, I know what the
37 regulation is and how they measure nets.

38
39 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Please come up to the mic.

42
43 TROOPER HILDEBRAND: I'm Trooper Darryl
44 Hildebrand and I work for the Alaska State Troopers. And
45 yes, there is a way we measure nets. We'll hang it and we
46 do measure it diagonally. It's the hanging weight and the
47 net has to be wet. We'll pick so many meshes and they have
48 to be a certain length. The regulation read four inch
49 mesh, if it's anything four inch mesh it is an illegal net

50 and it will be seized if it's fishing.

00166

1 MR. JAMES: Okay. This officer, what he
2 did was he just pushed it apart like this, you know.

3
4 TROOPER HILDEBRAND: Well, he has to grab
5 one corner of the mesh and let the net hang to measure it.
6 You can't just grab it and spread it out.

7
8 MR. JAMES: Yeah, well, that's what he did,
9 yeah.

10
11 TROOPER HILDEBRAND: A four inch mesh net
12 is very small, it's about like that because you measure it
13 diagonally so you're actually measuring -- you're correct
14 it is measured diagonally.

15
16 MR. JAMES: Thank you. That's all I have,
17 thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other comments.
20 Anybody else, Vince.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Fleener's
23 request for some type of get together or whatever you want
24 to call that with the three Regional Councils, we're
25 programming that into the January meeting that you three
26 will caucus. And at that time, maybe solutions would come
27 up or whatever but that's bring programmed in in response
28 to the fisheries as they stand but also in response to your
29 earlier training request as a joint Council.

30
31 In addition to that, though, we're trying
32 to negotiate with the State, and I'm just telling you now
33 that we have scheduling conflicts. The Board of fish
34 starts, I don't know, January 4th and goes to February
35 10th, they meet long and drink a lot of coffee. But the
36 point is, is that the staff that needs to be at Board of
37 Fish, you're going to need at your meeting so we're
38 negotiating on that. I'm just telling you now, I think
39 we'll try our best to have that happen but then realize
40 they're working for two bosses at the same time then. So
41 anyways, there will be opportunity from there. At that
42 time the three Councils can assess how they want to step
43 forward. I think it was Davey, I'm not sure, I think it
44 might have been Davey a while ago saying that there may
45 need to be additional meetings and we did have a response
46 on that as a case by case. So what I'm saying to you as
47 three Councils you can assess what you need for the future.

48
49 But anyway, I just wanted to give you an

50 update because try to respond to your requests but

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1 sometimes we have to find out the status of different
2 things. So anyway, January, we'll try it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, if there are no
5 further comments at this point I think we'll take a 10
6 minute break. First of all, are there any comments. Okay,
7 we have two so we're not going to take it yet. Why don't
8 we try to wrap it up here, so go ahead, come ahead first,
9 Bill.

10

11 MR. FLIRRIS: I'm sorry to keep coming up
12 here and slowing things down for you guys but when I look
13 at this particular subject of these protocols, it strikes
14 me that this might be one of the most important things that
15 we do. And the reason that I say that is because we're
16 entering a new management regime with the Federal interests
17 coming in here with the State to manage the fishery and the
18 game, too. And the possibility is, I think most people
19 think that what's going to happen is more confusion as
20 things go on further and further down the line. But it
21 seems to me that there's also the possibility to go the
22 other way, that you could have actually more cooperation.

23

24 But under roles here and the roles of
25 Federal managers -- well, first off the roles for the
26 public, you know, it says go to the meetings, review
27 preseason management plans and so on. I know from my own
28 personal experience, it's hard enough for me, and I try to
29 keep informed on these issues to stay up on things, let
30 alone, a lot of the people that are just fishermen that
31 want to go out and put their nets in, one lady here,
32 Josephine Roberts, made a comment, that you need a college
33 education to fish anymore. When she was a little girl you
34 just went out and put your gear in the water. And it's
35 really true.

36

37 But we're getting to this -- you know, it's
38 getting very complicated. And to me, it seems like under
39 the role of Federal managers, there ought to be a bullet
40 item there that says, publish newsletters to the local
41 schools and start educating people that are going to be the
42 next fishermen on the river about these issues, why things
43 are the way they are. And in order to talk to these kids
44 you're going to have to simplify things a lot and that's
45 great because that's the same language that most of us
46 would converse in, too. Talk to these kids, have them
47 bring it home and say, you know, we talked about fish
48 management today in class, maybe a newsletter that comes
49 out once a quarter or something like that or even once a

50 semester, that starts the learning curve earlier. Because

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1 what I see in all of these meetings, from the very
2 beginning when I got in, there's a steep learning curve.
3 And you come in with a lot of emotion and you find out
4 right away that you can't do the things that you feel like
5 you should do because there's all of these things to
6 accommodate and a lot of people get frustrated with that.
7 But I think if, you know, if the Federal managers could
8 take it upon themselves to spend a little money to publish
9 newsletters that go out to the schools, that will bring it
10 into the households and it will generate a discussion, it
11 will bring more educated people into the discussion as we
12 get down the line here 10 or 20 years, and then maybe we
13 can have real cooperation through the Feds, YRFDA and
14 State.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Bill. And I
19 think your use of the word, simplify, should be straight
20 across the board in everything that is brought before this
21 Council because Federal subsistence should be as simple and
22 as easy to get as it possibly could be. Did we have
23 somebody else that wanted to make a comment?

24

25 MR. G. SAM: Yeah.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Gabe.

28

29 MR. G. SAM: Monty, as the low returns of
30 fish keep progressing, as you know, a lot of the villages
31 are surrounded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges, they're
32 reliance on fish is going to be less if there's no fish so
33 they're reliance on other big game mammals are going to be
34 more. As you heard, you know, the Western Interior, the
35 moose situation, and what's going on there with the big
36 game guides, and there's a lot of questions as to what's
37 going on there, you know, I guess my question is, for U.S.
38 Fish and Wildlife, are they going to protect the
39 subsistence resource also for big game resources, you know?
40 Under ANILCA, subsistence is priority one. We keep hearing
41 that but, you know, all the resources are going to be under
42 attack if there's no more fish to fish out there.

43

44 You know, it just seems to progress even
45 more and more, and so I was just wondering -- you know,
46 just sitting there and listening to all this, what's going
47 to happen with that?

48

49 MR. MILLARD: Well, I'd have to direct that

50 to the wildlife managers but I would assume that they feel

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1 the same about wildlife subsistence resources as we do
2 about the fishery resources. But you could probably direct
3 that to some of the wildlife people this afternoon, that'd
4 be more appropriate.

5
6 MR. G. SAM: Well, Mr. Chair, talking with
7 people, you know, they got to feed their families out there
8 in the villages and they're going to do whatever it takes
9 to do that. A lot of the villages requested for early
10 openings for moose huntings, even in those early openings
11 when the weather was bad, a lot of them didn't do very
12 well. And you know, you heard that yesterday, people
13 hunting for days and days. I was fortunate to go to Huslia
14 to go hunting and went out with three or four families to
15 help them catch their moose for the winter, you know,
16 unfortunately it's not like that for every family.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Gabe. Just one
21 thing -- oh, Stan, did you have a comment?

22
23 MR. RAY: No, I got a question. Mr. Chair,
24 there's a question I had, Monty, I was thinking of last
25 night, there was a bunch of people, we were talking about
26 something and there's a lot of people that believe that the
27 problem isn't in-river, that why these fish aren't coming
28 back has nothing to do with, you know, us fishing in-river.
29 And if the State continues, year after year to do nothing
30 about the reasons why this lifestyle is just going -- is,
31 you know, just ending in front of us, what would be the
32 possibility of the Federal government taking over control
33 of those waters in the ocean where those fisheries,
34 hatcheries, in particular in Area M, what would be the
35 possibility of the -- you know, we've been talking about
36 this a lot and it's just, you know, we never got any type
37 of opinion, we were at a point where now we need to know,
38 you know, what would be the possibility of something like
39 that taking place. Has that ever been talked about?

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, Stan, always likes
44 to ask the difficult questions. I think this is something
45 beyond the scope of my expertise, he's talking about extra
46 territorial jurisdiction. This is something that goes to
47 the Secretary for a decision. I think it needs probably to
48 be addressed. It's certainly being discussed more
49 frequently but again, possibly we could get Vince to put it

50 on an agenda or ask the appropriate person to answer that

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1 because I cannot.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a
4 suggestion that Vince puts that on the next agenda and that
5 we have some discussion at our January meeting, if possible
6 -- no, not if possible, I'd like to have discussion at our
7 January meeting.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it's noted
10 to add it onto the agenda, but I believe Peggy has some
11 discussion or some light to shed on that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Peggy, you won't
14 be too long, right?

15

16 MS. FOX: No, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Just very briefly, we have submitted to the Secretary a
18 draft policy on how to assert extra territorial
19 jurisdiction. As Monty indicated, it would be the
20 Secretary's decision to do that. We did lay out a policy
21 and a process to do that, we have not gotten a response.
22 It is within the realm of possibility that we would extend
23 into marine waters and again, into management of commercial
24 fisheries, but there's an awful lot of stuff that has to be
25 worked out in terms of how to do that because there's other
26 Federal agencies involved that we don't currently work
27 with. And anyway, we have laid something out, haven't
28 gotten a response, that policy has been shared with the
29 Councils at previous meetings, at least the last two
30 meetings because it has been an issue that's been obvious
31 to a number of the Councils, Kodiak/Aleutian, YK, Western
32 and Eastern Interior, but we haven't heard anything back
33 and that's kind of the status. I don't know that we will
34 with the possible change of administration between now and
35 January or February or March.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Peggy. I think
40 we'll call a break right here and then immediately after
41 the break we'll take this back up again. And you might
42 also -- we have a lot of Federal lands in Eastern Interior,
43 you could also address what it would take for an emergency
44 Federal opening, should we decide to do -- or if it'd
45 become possible.

46

47 (Off record)

48 (On record)

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: We're ready to begin again,

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1 so if you'll keep it down, Monty's ready to answer any
2 further questions and wrap it up so we can go on to the
3 other people that have to leave by noon. I don't see any
4 further questions. I think Monty was going to tell us
5 about special actions, the fact that we have so much
6 Federal land here along the Yukon and tell us what that
7 would -- what would be involved there.

8

9 MR. MILLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At
10 your last training session I believe everyone received
11 drafting special actions and accompanying news releases. I
12 guess I'm a bit confused. We issued a number of special
13 actions this particular year, ADF&G issued emergency
14 orders, our special actions essentially mimicked the
15 emergency orders. I don't know if you mean if a private
16 individual or an organization wanted to issue a special
17 action. If that's the case, you know, I would be the one
18 who would sign it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I guess what I was getting
21 at with that one is when we had, for instance, the Nelchina
22 herd moving over onto the Refuge, we wanted to open a
23 season over there and do it under, you know an emergency
24 order because the caribou come in and they go out. But the
25 first year we tried that, we found that the bureaucratic
26 involvement was such that the caribou were long gone before
27 we got permission to even hold the hunt. So my concern
28 was, what kind of a process or procedure do we have, should
29 we find out that there are ample fish at some point coming
30 up the river and this is producing a miracle here but in
31 the area of Fort Yukon or whatever, and we need to open it
32 quickly, can it be done and how would it be done?

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it can be done
35 and the way it would be done is you would either call
36 Donald Mike or you would call Monty Millard, they both have
37 800 numbers. You would express that you want a special
38 action. If you didn't have it written up they would
39 capture it as much as possible and then it goes into the
40 process of setting that up through Monty doing action
41 directly. If it's a special action that goes beyond his
42 authority, which is noted in some that happened this
43 season, then it goes through the normal process that you do
44 with your regulatory proposals but at a rapid pace.
45 Basically what I think was done the last round is the Staff
46 committee took up the special action and then they
47 supported it and immediately polled their board members and
48 got -- the Federal Board members and got concurrence. So
49 my memory is getting foggy here but I think we pulled it

50 off in 48 hours.

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1 MS. FOX: Very close.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: It was really rapid. Just
4 thinking about the phone call part of it, to pull off in 48
5 hours, was quite a bit. So yes, it's there. The main
6 thing would be to capture what you want done and share it
7 with the in-season manager or your coordinator. You can
8 work through the Refuge Staff, too, but they're going to --
9 or Park Service Staff but they're going to refer you to the
10 coordinator or to Monty if it's fish, correct, Monty, is
11 that.....

12

13 MR. MILLARD: (Nods affirmatively)

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: So it can be, he has an 800
16 number. We've increased communication capacities with cell
17 phones and everything else, that, yes, it can be done, it
18 just has to be called in and we can push it forward.

19

20 MR. MILLARD: Mr. Chair, just a note on
21 maybe a bit more pragmatic basis, I probably had 20 or 30
22 requests, that weren't especially I want a special action,
23 but I want an opening, I want additional hours, I want two-
24 12s as opposed to one-24, and all these things, I think are
25 considered in the special actions that were already issued
26 this year. Trying to balance it out to be as fair an
27 equitable to everyone in those particular areas. So it's
28 going to be very difficult for an individual or an agency,
29 for us not to know it ahead of time, say, for Bonnie and I
30 not to know that this is already occurring because we've
31 already heard a week in advance, we think there's a lot of
32 fish here and then we start going to other people in trying
33 to balance it all out. And then issues of special actions
34 fairly and equitably as we can.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Is there any further
37 questions.

38

39 MR. MILLARD: One last thing, Mr. Chair, I
40 still needed a couple nominees for the November protocol
41 development, it'd be the last week in November.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Could we have volunteers
44 here?

45

46 MR. NICHOLIA: Davey.

47

48 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I wonder if the
49 members of the CFC, if they could, since they've been

50 integrally involved with fisheries all along, if they could

00173

1 still be participating as members?

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Would you be willing?

4

5 MR. JAMES: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GOOD: And Gerald was on that,
8 too, wasn't he?

9

10 MR. NICHOLIA: What day?

11

12 MR. MILLARD: At the present time, Mr.
13 Chair, it's the last week in November. It will probably be
14 a two day meeting, possibly three.

15

16 MR. NICHOLIA: Where?

17

18 MR. MILLARD: Most likely in Anchorage.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Can you make that?

21

22 MR. NICHOLIA: I'll spend the whole
23 December in Anchorage, I guess.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GOOD: In southern climate.

26

27 MR. NICHOLIA: Las Vegas and I'll consider
28 it.

29

30 MR. MILLARD: I'll pass that request on.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOOD: You have your people.

33

34 MR. MILLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 MR. NICHOLIA: One more thing, what's this
37 meeting going to be called?

38

39 MR. MILLARD: It'll be a protocol
40 development meeting. The protocol we went through, just to
41 clean it up, add to it, delete, basically it worked quite
42 well this year, overall, but there's some clean up issues.
43 It might go faster than what we think.

44

45 MR. NICHOLIA: Two days, uh, thanks.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We'll break from fisheries
48 for a second and come back. We have people that are
49 catching a noon flight here and I'd like to get the BLM

50 people in here next, squeeze you in quick like, and we'll

00174

1 come back to fisheries. So make a note of it Gabe.

2

3 MR. G. SAM: I could ask Monty later.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay.

6

7 MR. KARLEN: Mr. Chair, I'm Bob Karlen. I
8 work with Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.

9

10 MS. McSWEENY: And I'm Ingrid McSweeny and
11 I also work for BLM.

12

13 MR. KARLEN: Thanks for moving us up on the
14 agenda. What we'd like to do is update the Council on BLM
15 fisheries activities in two areas. And at the break we put
16 two handouts on the table, one dealing with Yukon River
17 salmon restoration, Congressional funding package, and then
18 there's a second handout dealing with Beaver Creek chinook
19 and summer chum salmon. I'll go through the restoration
20 package and then Ingrid will talk a little bit about what
21 we did this past summer on Beaver Creek.

22

23 This past year, BLM received funds through
24 the help of YRFDA on projects related to the Yukon River
25 salmon restoration. This package came to us in December.
26 What we did then at BLM is met and selected projects that
27 directly related to salmon that would increase salmon
28 harvest, protect habitat, maintain viable stocks, and so we
29 put together a project list and what I've handed out to you
30 are five projects that would be of interest to the Eastern
31 Council. I can go through those real briefly.

32

33 The first one is production habitat
34 inventory projects. The idea there was to identify
35 spawning and rearing habitat, to protect habitat, assess
36 contribution to overall Yukon productivity and give us an
37 opportunity to assess areas where we might be able to
38 restore habitat. What we did this past year was entered
39 into a cooperative agreement with YRFDA and Alaska
40 Department of Fish and Game so no actual work took place
41 this past summer but work will start this summer and for
42 the following year so it's funded for two years.

43

44 The second project that we set aside money
45 for out of the package was for the Yukon River chinook
46 salmon radiotelemetry project which you're familiar with,
47 Russ Holder and John Eiler are running that project. They
48 did a pilot study this year and will be tagging chinooks
49 next year. BLM made a contribution this year towards

50 putting up the necessary towers for receiving signals when

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1 the fish go by on the river. So we made a contribution to
2 that project.

3

4 Number three, we set some money aside for
5 escapement projects. Two of them, one of interest to the
6 Eastern area here is on the Tozitna River, we just signed a
7 cooperative agreement with the Tanana Tribal Council, and
8 next summer we hope to implement that project and have a
9 counter tower on the Upper Tozitna River. The Tanana
10 Tribal Council will provide some of the labor for that
11 project. We used also, some of the money, in escapement
12 projects to run Clear Creek counting tower and that
13 project's been going on since 1996, I believe. Clear Creek
14 being up on the Hogatza River drainage and it drains into
15 the Koyukuk River. So some of the funds went for that
16 project also. Also included in the Clear Creek funding was
17 a cooperative interagency agreement that was put together
18 with Biological Resources Division of USGS and they're
19 going to do some smolt, chum smolt work on Clear Creek in
20 conjunction with our escapement counts.

21

22 On the second page, I have Nome Creek
23 Restoration Project. This project is projected to require
24 five or more years to complete. It involves continued
25 restoration of placer mine channels on Nome Creek near
26 Fairbanks. This is an ongoing project being done by BLM
27 with funding from various sources. The money we use from
28 -- out of the Congressional funding package was
29 supplemented with \$75,000 of Clean Water Action Plan money
30 that was provided to BLM in fiscal year 2000.

31

32 And lastly on the list, number five was
33 YRFDA, and a portion of the funding that we got in the
34 package went to YRFDA for public relations work.

35

36 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

37

38 MR. NICHOLIA: Bob, this thing about
39 counting in the creek, how much are you guys going to
40 disturb those eggs?

41

42 MR. KARLEN: BRD is going to do that work,
43 Gerald. We haven't gotten an operational plan from them
44 and I'm not sure exactly what methodologies they're going
45 to use to look at that. I can certainly find that out,
46 though, and get back with you.

47

48 MR. NICHOLIA: Well, yeah, because I'd like
49 to respond to that. I believe you guys shouldn't disturb

50 the eggs. Any disturbance to eggs in their natural

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1 environment, being disturbed, before they become smoltz or
2 small fry eggs, I think you'll just be killing them off.

3

4 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have a question.
5 Why is BLM paying for placer mine clean ups? Why aren't
6 the operators being helped responsible for the clean up?

7

8 MR. KARLEN: In most instances when a
9 placer miner goes out and has a plan of operation, they are
10 responsible. There are some instances where before a
11 certain date or a miner's just walked away from the
12 situation and we're left with it, those would be instances
13 where we might consider using funds to actually go up and
14 clean up an area. You're correct, though, in that any
15 placer mining activity, they are responsible for clean up.

16

17 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, follow-up, do you
18 guys plan on pursuing these placer miners to make them pay
19 to restore -- to pay for the clean up after the fact,
20 because it doesn't seem fair that you guys are having to
21 clean up after these people. It doesn't sound too good,
22 these people are messing things up, they're messing streams
23 up, whatever sort of stuff they're doing and they're not
24 cleaning it up, it doesn't seem right for them not to clean
25 up. I think my buddy over here has something to say.

26

27 MR. WILDE: Thank you, Craig. I think what
28 Bob's neglecting to tell you, these guys were closed down
29 by the Second World War and there's nobody been in there
30 since. And I may be wrong about that but I've been in that
31 area for quite a while, not since 1940, but.....

32

33 MR. KARLEN: I think you're referring to
34 Birch Creek?

35

36 MR. WILDE: I thought we was talking about
37 Nome Creek, sorry.

38

39 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'm talking
40 about the Nome Creek Restoration Project here.

41

42 MR. KARLEN: I was talking in general and I
43 didn't realize you were talking specifically about Nome
44 Creek.

45

46 MR. FLEENER: Well, I guess the question
47 can be general as well, why wouldn't people be held
48 responsible? I guess if they stopped mining in 1941, they
49 should still be held responsible if they're walking the

50 face of the Earth. It seems insane that we're letting

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1 people do what they want to the environment and then walk
2 away from it and then our Federal government will come and
3 rescue them with no responsibility on them whatsoever.

4
5 MS. McSWEENY: Mr. Chair, if I may, in
6 regards to Nome Creek, there is one active claim still on
7 Nome Creek. But the majority went null and void, I guess
8 30 or 40 years ago and it is a tributary to a salmon
9 spawning stream. And the upper headwaters were pretty much
10 destroyed. And for the past 10 years we've put money
11 towards reclaiming that area. One of the things, when we
12 received the money from YRFDA was we allocated \$20,000
13 towards Nome Creek, that's what Bob was talking about. But
14 in regards to other placer mine streams, we do the best we
15 can to try to get these people to clean up, but sometimes,
16 you know, we can only do so much and, you know, it's a sad
17 case but when you have someone who goes out there and, you
18 know, it might cost 30 or 40 grand to reclaim this area and
19 they just don't have the money to do it and they'll walk,
20 and so we're left with that.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. FLEENER: I got more to say but I just
25 can't get my thoughts straight. Thanks.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GOOD: But on the other hand, I'm
28 very glad somebody is cleaning it up and making it
29 sufficient habitat for salmon.

30
31 MR. KARLEN: If there's no further
32 questions on the funding package, Ingrid will give an
33 update on Beaver Creek project from this last summer.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Ingrid.

36
37 MS. McSWEENY: Okay, Mr. Chair, I'd like to
38 present to you the Beaver Creek chinook and summer chum
39 salmon weir. In 1996, BLM initiated a study to monitor the
40 chinook and chum salmon used in the upper reaches of Beaver
41 Creek National Wild River. A weir was installed in the
42 main channel of the river approximately 150 miles from the
43 mouth. Salmon were counted from mid-June to mid-August.
44 The weir is the only chinook and summer chum salmon
45 escapement project operating in the Alaska portion of the
46 Yukon River subbasin.

47
48 The objectives of the project. Enumerate
49 chinook and chum salmon escapement in the middle and upper

50 reaches of Beaver Creek. Document run timing and run

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1 strength for chinook and chum salmon spawners in the creek.
2 Monitor the hydrologic conditions at the weir site and
3 determine the age, sex and size, composition of the chinook
4 and chum salmon escapement of Beaver Creek.
5

6 In 1996, the BLM counted 192 chinook and
7 654 chum salmon at a cost of 30 grand. And this is only
8 operation costs, it does not include labor. In 1997, 315
9 chinook were counted and 34 chum at a cost of 30 grand. In
10 1998, the weir washed out. In 1999 128 chinook were
11 counted and 75 chum at a cost of 28,000. In 2000, 123
12 chinook were counted and 125 chum at a cost of 30,000. Two
13 of the chinook salmon counted were tagged with the blue
14 spaghetti tags from the Yukon tagging project. To-date the
15 total cost of the project is approximately 140,000.
16

17 The BLM submitted a pre-proposal to U.S.
18 Fish and Wildlife for Federal subsistence money to fund the
19 weir for an additional two years. The project would
20 continue as before but with one new objective. The weir
21 would function as a tag recovery station for the ADF&G
22 chinook salmon radio telemetry mark recapture project.
23

24 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have a question.
25 Do you happen to have any historical data on what the chum
26 and chinook salmon runs were like a long time ago?
27

28 MS. McSWEENY: From a long time ago, no, we
29 have data from like the past 15 years. Not on the runs
30 itself but just on instances where people have seen salmon
31 spawning in certain areas of the river but no run counts.
32

33 MR. FLEENER: So was there any indication
34 at all of there being higher numbers, a lot higher numbers
35 in the past?
36

37 MS. McSWEENY: There is no indication of
38 that, no.
39

40 MR. FLEENER: Okay, thanks.
41

42 MR. NICHOLIA: Considering this Beaver
43 Creek weir on one creek and like a lot of other places on
44 the Yukon, like we mentioned, is it possible that a lot of
45 the other creeks can be contributing salmon along the
46 Eastern Interior region into the Yukon, like there's a lot
47 of other creeks that could be studied or something like
48 that.
49

MS. McSWEENY: Yeah, and we're trying to do

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1 that now. We don't have the -- we're just starting to get
2 into the salmon monitoring program and Clear Creek, Beaver
3 Creek and now the Tozitna weir are getting us into that,
4 but I'm sure that there are other creeks that we could be
5 doing salmon work on, too.

6

7 MR. KARLEN: If I may, Gerald, one other
8 way that we might be able to assess that is through the
9 first project that I mentioned on that list, the production
10 habitat where we'd actually get out and look at some of the
11 streams that don't usually get looked at, and there may or
12 may not be some surprises as to how productive these
13 streams are.

14

15 MR. NICHOLIA: Would that be like flying
16 over the creeks, like presumably spawning times?

17

18 MR. KARLEN: Yes. We haven't sat down and
19 written the operational plan, but conceptually what we
20 would do is go out in probably starting early July, we've
21 got enough money to go for about a month and then look when
22 the spawners are actually on -- you know, in the streams.
23 So we'd need to maximize finding salmon there.

24

25 MR. NICHOLIA: Is traditional ecological
26 knowledge going to be incorporated in your planning
27 process?

28

29 MR. KARLEN: We would welcome that. What
30 we hope to do is probably sometime after Christmas,
31 actually sit down and write the operational plan on, you
32 know, what will be collected, when we'll collect it, where
33 we'll collect it, that kind of thing.

34

35 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I see the
36 objectives of the project listed here but what's the
37 ultimate hope for this project? Is it to just continue
38 documenting that between 120 and 300 chinook and between 30
39 and 600 chum are going up there or what's the ultimate
40 hope? Because it seems like a lot of effort on an ongoing
41 basis for such small numbers. I mean I realize you mention
42 that the next two years is going to be to help find out
43 where fish are going from the mouth, is that one of the end
44 products of this?

45

46 MS. McSWEENEY: Yeah. But one of the -- the
47 reason why we conducted this study is we really didn't have
48 any idea of how big the salmon runs were in Beaver Creek,
49 and we're mandated by ANILCA in the Wild and Scenic Rivers

50 Act to do inventory on the fish in Beaver Creek. So U.S.

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1 Fish and Wildlife Service and the BLM picked a site and,
2 you know, they thought a five year study would be the best
3 to find out how big the runs were and the strength and
4 timing of the runs and so we did that. So basically the
5 information we needed we have, okay, it's a small run. We
6 feel a majority of the spawning habitat is in the National
7 Recreation part of the river. The current sport bag limits
8 for salmon are -- for king salmon are three per day and for
9 chum there's seven per day.

10

11 Three years ago the BLM constructed a three mile
12 road into Nome
13 Creek so they've increased access so there's more people
14 getting to float -- it's easier to float the wild river and
15 we thought, you know, we really needed to do an inventory
16 of salmon because we might even make a recommendation to
17 the Board of Fish, you know, that we want the bag limit
18 reduced to maybe one per day. But since last summer we've
19 caught two spaghetti tagged fish that's part of the Yukon
20 River salmon project, it was strongly recommended that we
21 continue the weir for two more years. But as far as
22 reaching our objectives, we feel like we've met them.

23

24 MR. FLEENER: Okay, thank you.

25

26 MR. NICHOLIA: Mr. Chair, it says under
27 your project list, improve habitat quality and quantity.
28 Is this after you guys find out that the stream may contain
29 salmon but there's so few because of the habitat quality,
30 you guys will be able to improve it or restore it?

31

32 MR. KARLEN: Mr. Chair, which project are
33 we talking about?

34

35 MR. NICHOLIA: The study here, it says,
36 improve habitat quality and quantity.

37

38 MR. KARLEN: Okay. That would be a
39 situation where, for instance, in the production habitat
40 inventory, if we look around and come across an area where
41 it's been historically mined and nobody's there now and if
42 it's feasible, if it seems like the right thing to do, then
43 some habitat restoration work might take place. I mean
44 that's why that's in there.

45

46 MR. NICHOLIA: Okay, thank you.

47

48 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair.

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Davey.

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1 MR. JAMES: Yeah, this question goes back
2 in line with what Craig was talking about. I want to thank
3 both you guys for seeking funds to clean up some of this
4 placer minings out there. But I don't know what kind of
5 message that will send out to miners in future years. But
6 I would like to thank you for looking for money through the
7 Clean Action program. Because this ties in with the issues
8 that we received last year from our former Council members
9 Lincoln and Calvin Tritt, when they were expressing
10 concerns of an airplane in the middle of the Chandler
11 River. It's still sitting there and they're concerned that
12 all the lead from the plane will some how damage the fish
13 that's migrating up there, and maybe we need to get
14 together and try to get the other agencies, the Yukon Flats
15 National Wildlife and the Arctic National Wildlife Agencies
16 to work together in finding fundings to remove that plane
17 because that owner just left it there and took off of the
18 state.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GOOD: This has been educational,
23 too, I might add for me. As I heard that king salmon were
24 selling on the Lower Yukon at \$5 a pound, I thought, wow,
25 that's quite a place to sell them at \$5 a pound, that
26 sounds pretty expensive and then I looked at what it cost
27 to do the counts here, based on the number of salmon
28 counted and I said that's pretty cheap down in the mouth of
29 the Yukon. But, the cost, I guess, at this point aren't
30 something we can look at on a per fish, it's the
31 information that's gathered that's so important to us, and
32 thank you.

33
34 And now, Gabe, did you have something you
35 wanted to say there or were you going to wrap that up with
36 a conversation with Monty, before we started this?

37
38 MR. G. SAM: I'll talk to him on the side
39 unless all you guys want to hear.

40
41 MR. FLEENER: Nope.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOOD: That's okay.

44
45 MR. G. SAM: Yeah, it just had to do with
46 the protocol, you know, but I'll talk to him.

47
48 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I talked to a few
49 people from Fish and Wildlife Service about making a motion

50 for looking at determining need along the Yukon River and

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1 it sounds like they were pretty supportive of the idea so I
2 wrote this motion up and I'll go ahead and make this motion
3 now: To request the Fisheries Information Service Office
4 to set aside, I guess it would be FY2001 funding for
5 contracting organizations to determine subsistence salmon
6 needs in every community along the Yukon River.

7

8 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOOD: The motion has been moved
11 and seconded. Further discussion on this. I think that
12 this has been a topic that we're all in support of but is
13 there any other comments from anybody here?

14

15 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I don't know if
16 someone from the Fish and Wildlife Service wants to comment
17 on the importance of this type of a motion or not, I don't
18 know if it would be -- all right.

19

20 MS. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Peggy Fox,
21 Fish and Wildlife Service. Craig and I did discuss this a
22 little bit earlier today and I do strongly support the
23 motion that he has prepared and I agree, totally, that it's
24 a need. We certainly learned a lot about what's going on
25 on the Yukon this year, obviously we have a lot more to
26 learn, and that is an information need that hasn't -- I'm
27 not sure has been put into a project proposal for the 2001
28 monies, I will go back and check that, but despite that,
29 whether or not somebody has submitted a proposal for
30 monitoring funds, we can take the initiative and develop a
31 project and go out and contract to have that information
32 gathered. I will take that back with that in mind and the
33 process has really just begun to make decisions on funding,
34 so it's very timely.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. FLEENER: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOOD: If there is no further
41 discussion, question has been called. All those in favor
42 of the motion signify by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Opposed same sign.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: The motion carries. Vince,

00183

1 does that carry us now to D?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: The only thing would be
4 appointment to the coordinating committee between
5 Southcentral and Eastern Interior. Some kind of decision
6 on that and then that would bring you up to D.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Gabe.

9

10 MR. G. SAM: On second thought I think I
11 would like to have it on record.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Can you wait until we
14 finish this, we're in the middle of something here?

15

16 MR. G. SAM: I thought you were.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We're going to finish this
19 up right here. Now, the committee to work with
20 Southcentral people. Obviously I have something involved
21 here as I am from that area, the question is whether or not
22 any other Council members would like to participate in
23 working on Southcentral, Eastern Interior joint issues, is
24 there anyone here would like to serve on this?

25

26 MR. JAMES: What's this again?

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOOD: This is a joint committee
29 that would be composed of two members from Southcentral and
30 two members from Eastern Interior who would work on those
31 overlap areas that come before both us to perhaps resolve
32 some differences before they come before the Councils.

33

34 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair, I would like to
35 recommend you and Craig, since Craig's been on this Council
36 for quite a few years and he's been on other committees
37 before working with Southcentral.

38

39 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I was going to ask
40 first if we're going to be getting four new members any
41 time soon, and I think it would be best if we have another
42 person from closer to the Southcentral area. I think they
43 would better represent our Council, if not, it wouldn't be
44 a problem for me to serve, I wouldn't mind. But if we're
45 going to getting four new members then, if we're going to
46 be getting members from closer to that area, I think it
47 would be a lot better for us to have two people from down
48 there.

49

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you have several

00184

1 resignations and et cetera, we can't predict that they'll
2 come from that area, but obviously to get geographic
3 representation on the Council we are now weak in that area.
4 So it's a good chance -- it depends on when the applicants
5 come in. We will attempt, if at all possible, to fill one
6 of the seats, most likely the seat that just came new with
7 one from the alternates but we need to work on that. So I
8 suppose what I'm saying, by the next meeting, the best
9 scenario is, if we can pull it off, is there'll be one
10 other member here. So that would be the best and the other
11 ones will probably go to the next nomination process.

12

13 That would kind of compel all of you that
14 if you know of people that are thinking of applying or you
15 think that would be good to be on the Council, to help us
16 get the word out so we can get a good response on
17 applications as far as numbers. Because if we are looking
18 at five seats, you know, four seats, whatever the number
19 is, we need to have a large pool of candidates to look at.

20

21 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair -- go ahead.

22

23 MR. NICHOLIA: Mr. Chair, I'd like to, if
24 it would help to the Federal program, I'd like to make a
25 motion that at the next -- at least one of the next four
26 members that's going to be new come from the South -- close
27 to the Southcentral region so we could better support these
28 kind of deals here.

29

30 MR. FLEENER: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOOD: It has been moved and
33 seconded that an effort be made to find a new member who
34 would be located relatively close to the Southcentral
35 region and have more geographically in common. Further
36 discussion on this.

37

38 MR. NICHOLIA: Question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Question's been called.
41 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Opposed same sign.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN GOOD: The motion passes.

00185

1 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I wonder when we
2 would need these two people to be participating in this
3 coordinated meeting here?

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: It's hard to predict. Right
6 now the actions -- well, it's just hard to predict, it
7 depends on what proposals come in on wildlife. There is
8 some concerns on the caribou situation in the one area and
9 then fisheries would be the main one with the Copper River.
10 So that would be -- if that's fish, that would be a year
11 from now that you would need to have someone here, so that
12 would be the normal appointment schedule. Wildlife ones,
13 you're taking those up at the next meeting, your next --
14 February, March. We have no idea what proposals have been
15 submitted to date. But I have gotten calls about the
16 caribou situation and Nat can correct me, 13(C) I think it
17 is?

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOOD: That'd be 13(B).

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: 13(B), so there may be some
22 proposals there that would come in. But the main point is
23 of the two and two, it's not a voting thing, this is mainly
24 a dialogue, kind of consensus building. It would be best
25 to have two and two, but Nat's been pretty successful in
26 the past with negotiations with Southcentral, so I think in
27 the interim until seats are filled, it'd probably work with
28 Nat and Craig, if needed.

29
30 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I guess my
31 question was, when do you think the earliest we would need
32 to meet with the Southcentral would be, would it be before
33 our next meeting, would it be a month before, two months
34 before, just a time frame is all I'm looking for?

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, you didn't want a
37 dissertation?

38
39 MR. FLEENER: No, I didn't want all that.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, darn.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Vince, if I could make a
44 suggestion, when we do have our meeting in January, any
45 time that we have all of the groups together, that would be
46 a good time to perhaps spend a couple of hours in the
47 evening, something like that, with those members and it
48 would save us money and time to do it that way.

49

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, we could do it that way

00186

1 and then exactly what you said, it'd be one or two months
2 before, depending on the wildlife proposals.

3

4 MR. FLEENER: You still didn't answer my
5 question, Vince, do you think -- I realize that we're going
6 to talk here, but are we going to be planning a meeting
7 with them before our next Council meeting?

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: We won't know until the
10 proposals come in if we need to plan a meeting.

11

12 MR. FLEENER: Okay, that's what I wanted to
13 know, thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you.

16

17 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I guess I'll
18 participate until we find a replacement. I think that it
19 still would be wise to have someone from your area
20 representing the issues that are common to Eastern and
21 Southcentral.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, I thank you very much
24 because I think it's very nice to have somebody else from
25 Eastern Interior with me, so until such time as you can
26 kick out the door and sneak away, thank you for being
27 there.

28

29 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like -- since
30 we're talking about the importance of having good
31 representation from the southern part of the Eastern
32 Interior, Gerald reminded me and we talked quite a bit
33 yesterday about the role that Chuck Miller played on the
34 Eastern Interior, and I know this isn't really an
35 appropriate time.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Why not.

38

39 MR. FLEENER: But I'd just like to put it
40 on the record that I thought that he did a fabulous job and
41 we're going to really miss him on the Council. I think
42 he's been here since the beginning. I don't know what we
43 can do as a Council or as an organization to do something
44 in recognition of his years of hard work but I think
45 something needs to be done. But if nothing else, I just
46 want to make official recognition of the darn good job that
47 he did and his availability, even in the face of some of
48 the hardships that he's had over the past few years.

49

00187

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you could draft
2 a letter, it'd be one thing, lifetime subscription to
3 meeting notebooks would be another.

4
5 (Laughter)
6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Another thing, I have to
8 forewarn you is, when I checked my voice mail messages and
9 there is a call from Chuck Miller to return, so I'm not
10 saying that he may be rescinding his thing but he is going
11 through a difficult time and maybe he's rethought or he may
12 be just calling up to deal with something else. I wasn't
13 able to call him back. So I will convey this but you could
14 send a letter.

15
16 MR. FLEENER: He wants his meeting packet.
17

18 (Laughter)
19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we could send a letter,
21 Donald could do that and then the program will be sending a
22 letter also at some point, I don't know when that happens,
23 but we could do it that way.

24
25 MR. NICHOLIA: What do plaques cost?
26

27 MR. MATHEWS: A plaque?
28

29 MR. NICHOLIA: How much does a plaque cost?
30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Jerry's not here right
32 now, yeah, Jerry is here, we usually send a certificate,
33 don't we? And Jerry goes out on the Nome Creek and gets
34 some gold and then he presses it very thin, or actually
35 gold lettering. Jerry's our gold person. But we usually
36 send a certificate. He's not doing that anymore, but that
37 assignment is still within the program, I believe, right?

38
39 MR. BERG: (Nods affirmatively)
40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Jerry confirms that.
42 So he will get a certificate and a lifetime subscription
43 to.....

44
45 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, maybe we can
46 forego the lifetime subscription and put that money towards
47 a plaque because I think someone who's been here from the
48 beginning deserves maybe a little bit more than a
49 certificate and a heck of a lot headaches than getting

50 meeting packet material.

00188

1 MR. MATHEWS: I think we can -- Donald can
2 pursue that. I think that can be done, but I'm kind of
3 concerned about all those mail planes not having all this
4 extra weight. Okay, yeah, I think we can come up with
5 something on that. Whoever ends up being the Chair from
6 here on out may want to bring this up when you have the
7 Joint Chair's meeting because he played a significant role
8 in the Joint Chair's, they may want to do something. So
9 that would be something also.

10

11 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, if you guys do
12 come up with something good, I'd like you to keep in touch
13 with the Council to make sure that we're involved, that we
14 approve of what you guys are about to buy or whatever.

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: It's kind of out of my hands
17 but it's on the record of how.....

18

19 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, but we're holding you
20 accountable buddy.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: I get a lot of catalogs in
25 the mail.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Just on the other side of
28 the coin, when you do speak to Chuck, tell him I'll be
29 running out to Dot Lake to see him and give him my
30 complaints about the fact he wasn't here. I think lunch is
31 ready now so.....

32

33 MR. JAMES: Nat.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Yeah.

36

37 MR. JAMES: What about some people that
38 have to leave early?

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Good point. How many
41 people do have deadlines right now -- well, everybody does
42 but how many people have deadlines coming up pretty quick
43 that you need to leave soon? Oh, get out of here. Is
44 there anybody else that has to present right now, as soon
45 as possible. Gabe has some words he'd like to read into
46 the record, would you like to do that right now, Gabe?

47

48 MR. G. SAM: If I could.

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: Sure, the rest of us will

00189

1 go ahead and eat.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, after thinking
6 about it there -- ph, I got to go, see you. I was reading
7 over this protocol and I don't know why I didn't catch it
8 in the Western Interior, maybe it takes a couple of these
9 meeting to try and catch this information. But nowhere in
10 the protocol do I see anything about Native organizations
11 being involved in the protocol of this management. I
12 looked through it and it says nothing about Native
13 organizations, specifically TCC or AVCP, you know, one of
14 the largest regional non-profit organizations representing
15 their region, but I do see YRFDA in there. And as far as I
16 know YRFDA does not represent TCC, although we have a lot
17 of our member villages in YRFDA, so a lot of the protocols
18 that are currently working on -- for example, the migratory
19 bird working group, the Native migratory bird working
20 group, we're in the process of, you know, finally going to
21 legalize spring migratory bird hunting in the state of
22 Alaska, and we worked very hard in getting that agreement.

23

24 You know, Yukon River Panel, for example.
25 You know we are an integral part in that, the Native people
26 in helping the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, ADF&G draft up a
27 plan for that and the negotiations.

28

29 So I don't know, maybe it was just
30 something that was accidentally left out but I think the
31 Native people have to be represented in this protocol, and
32 that's all I'm going to say about that.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Monty, did you want to
37 respond at all?

38

39 MR. MILLARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Monty
40 Millard, Fish and Wildlife Service. I always love to
41 respond to Gabe's comments. Basically I think the answer
42 to this is under roles, the very first line, it says
43 Regional Councils, subsistence users and other affected
44 public interests, review preseason management plans,
45 participate in meetings, receive relevant State and Federal
46 news releases, participate in post season reviews and
47 evaluations, be very appropriate for the protocol
48 development to include maybe a member from TCC and AVCP,
49 lower river and upriver Native interests. This is maybe

50 something the RACs could recommend. We'd like to keep the

00190

1 protocol group, of course, at a manageable level, and I
2 don't know how you do that if you allow everyone who's
3 interested in development.

4
5 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
6 address this a little bit. I got kind of a bias viewpoint
7 on the -- yeah, Native involvement, having spent one year
8 in Canada and just about every single committee that's
9 formed by the government has seats set aside for the tribe
10 and you can tell right off the bat that there's commitment
11 to working with the First Nation's people, especially in
12 the northern provinces where the populations of Natives are
13 so high. And I think this -- it may have been an
14 oversight, I don't know, but frequently Native people are
15 just seen as another user and I think that it needs to go
16 just beyond that a little bit and I agree with Gabe's
17 interest in Native people having a seat here. And I think
18 as quasi-sovereign governments, sort of co-equal with the
19 Federal government that there should be some recognition.
20 Especially when you consider the vast number of Native
21 people that will be involved in any decisions made here. I
22 think there should be some involvement and I don't know if
23 our statements here are enough to get something like this
24 done or if something needs to be put in the form of a
25 motion. But I think that basically I agree with Gabe that
26 there needs to be some large organizational involvement
27 with Native people.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Don.

30
31 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
32 Rivard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Yukon
33 protocol is part of a bigger interim agreement with the
34 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal agencies
35 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and it's one of
36 the agenda items, and I thought maybe this would be the
37 time to talk about it a little bit. It's under Tab D, and
38 it's the interim memorandum of agreement. This might help
39 clarify this a little bit, how this was developed, sort of
40 in the middle of Tab D. I apologize for the pagination, it
41 didn't continue through some of these tabs.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay, Don, just remember,
44 the food is sitting behind us here.

45
46 MR. RIVARD: Okay, I'll make it quick.
47 This is the interim memorandum of agreement between the
48 Federal agencies and the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game, Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of

50 Game that are dealing with the subsistence program, and at

00191

1 some point you can take the time to read it. But if you
2 look on Page 4 of that agreement, it says scope for
3 individual protocols. Well, as far as I know I think the
4 Yukon protocol for the year 2000 was the only protocol
5 that's been developed so far under this interim MOA. And
6 so that's how that was developed and so it's between --
7 again, between the Federal agencies and the State of Alaska
8 that are the managing fisheries and wildlife.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd just like to
13 make a statement here. It says on the first page of this
14 agreement that interim memorandum of agreement for the Fish
15 and Wildlife Service basically and the Alaska Department of
16 Fish and Game, this just goes to show you exactly what I'm
17 talking about, that we have left out tribes once again. I
18 know things are different here in the U.S. than they are in
19 Canada, but the Federal government has the trust
20 responsibility that it continues to gloss over, especially
21 in light of language in ANILCA, and I don't like that very
22 much. I think there should certainly be more tribal
23 involvement, tribal recognition.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Vince.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this was
28 discussed at length at the January meeting, if you
29 remember, there was a lot of testimony on tribal signators
30 to this and not tribal signators to the interim memorandum
31 of agreement. And it appeared to be that there was feeling
32 among the Regional Councils that the Regional Council are
33 tribal representatives and that there wasn't a need for
34 signatory. The other thing is, is I want to point out on
35 top of Page 3, one of the guiding principles on the top of
36 3 is number 5 and it says insure this is the guiding
37 principle of the agreement, insure exchange of fishery and
38 wildlife information between the signatories, subsistence
39 users, Alaska Native groups including the Alaska Native
40 tribes, non-profits, et cetera, et cetera. so it is in the
41 guiding principles of the interim agreement which is
42 between -- well, I forgot. The Federal government for lack
43 of a better term and the State of Alaska.

44

45 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, that's -- thanks
46 Vince. That's good and all that but it still leaves out
47 the fundamental principle of being a signatory on something
48 like this instead of being someone who is only -- I can't
49 think of the word now, but someone who is only advised of

50 how things are going to be carried out. And I think there

00192

1 should be involvement on the signatory level not just on
2 the advisory level. It goes back to the idea of
3 cooperative management again, you know, you manage, we
4 cooperate and that's what I see going on here.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Fleener,
7 you do have an avenue, not on the interim memorandum of
8 agreement but you do with the protocol, since your two
9 representatives here will be involved in a review of that
10 and assisting with drafting the next protocol on the Yukon
11 River to have it noted your concerns in there. I don't
12 know if it will end up in there but you do have two people
13 going to that in November.

14

15 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, one other thing
16 that I'd like to point out is that there may have been
17 discussion that there are Native people on these Councils
18 but these Councils do not represent Native people we
19 represent subsistence users and according to the laws that
20 we work under, those subsistence users are not isolated to
21 Native people so we can't say that we -- I mean we can't
22 officially say that this Board is going to represent Native
23 people. I mean whether or not we do, by the fact that we
24 have Native representation is beside the point.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Gabe.

29

30 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, Craig already
31 explained it. The Regional Advisory Committees does not
32 represent TCC as a whole, as a political entity. Only the
33 president of our organization has that power to give
34 another person that authority. And an interim is fine,
35 what Vince said, number 5, but it does not state that in
36 the Yukon River Drainage Subsistence Fisheries Management
37 Protocol, it is nowhere in there that it says that, that
38 there's a clear distinction that there is Native
39 organizations involved in this plan. And that's still my
40 main concern.

41

42 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to put
43 a little bit more discussion on this. I think last January
44 we had a really long discussion on this as you remember, it
45 was three -- I think there was three Regional Councils had
46 a vote on that and we inserted the word tribal and from
47 then until now they took the word tribal out and we never
48 got no answer why they took that out. One of the answers
49 they took the tribal out and they put it in the back here.

50 Here we go again, agencies not recognizing the government

00193

1 to government relationship there again. Of course the
2 tribes, it is government, as stated, and the State of
3 Alaska recognized that last month. So I think we really
4 should put that back in the front there and start working
5 because the three Regional Councils voted on that and they
6 passed it last year.

7
8 Here we go again, putting us back, you
9 know, as a token on the back of the page again. Because
10 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Board of
11 Fisheries, Alaska Board of Games, you know, the Alaska
12 Board of Games are really not a government, so we should --
13 you know, they're not a government, the state of Alaska is
14 the government, and we should put the tribes in there as
15 equals as stated in Congress, start recognizing them.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Davey. Gerald.

18
19 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'd like to
20 entertain a motion that this interim agreement shows more
21 recognition to like tribal governments, tribal entities, so
22 if you guys are going to be managing subsistence resources
23 in our area, I want more recognition for the tribal
24 entities that do manage these, so I make a motion that
25 there be more -- something that says more concrete, doesn't
26 have to be signatory, but more concrete that would involve
27 tribal governments in our area.

28
29 MR. FLEENER: I'll second that Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOOD: It has been moved and
32 seconded that we increase the role of tribal governments;
33 is that correct, Gerald?

34
35 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay. In whatever capacity
38 possible, is there any further discussion.

39
40 MR. FLEENER: Yes, Mr. Chair. The only
41 difference that I would have from what Gerald just said, is
42 I think that the tribes need to be signatories. Now, the
43 only problem is that this -- I think this is for the entire
44 Yukon River; is that correct -- nobody's nodding.

45
46 MR. RIVARD: This is statewide.

47
48 MR. FLEENER: Statewide.

49

MR. RIVARD: So there could be other

00194

1 protocols developed, Copper River, other places.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: So that would be the
4 complicated part of it, is do we put down 200 and some odd
5 tribes on here so the -- an issue would be to determining
6 how we go about having tribal involvement.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOOD: As a comment at this point,
9 I really notice that somebody is missing here and I wonder
10 if we could find out why and see if Ida Hildebrand might be
11 at our next meeting? Usually in a case like this, she is
12 very helpful.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: No, she's scheduled for
15 another meeting and we can convey to her that you wish she
16 were here but she's one representative. The other thing
17 is, I think whatever happens with the motion is that I'm
18 drawing a blank in my information data base here that this
19 was discussed extensively, tribal in and out of the MOA,
20 and I'm just drawing a blank here so it might be best that
21 that be investigated in addition.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Gerald.

24

25 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, since
26 there's a tribal organization called Alaska Intertribal
27 Council that represents almost all tribes in Alaska, I
28 recommend that -- I amend this motion that you guys get
29 them -- their tribal chairman, be a signatory on this
30 thing.

31

32 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, I would go along with
33 that so the motion would just read that AITC would be the
34 signatory.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOOD: The mover and the second
37 have amended their motion and they're in agreement, there
38 is no objection.
39 The motion's on the floor as amended.

40

41 MR. FLEENER: Question.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Hearing no further
44 discussion and seeing no indication of any further
45 discussion. All those in favor of the motion signify by
46 saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: Opposed same sign.

00195

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOOD: The motion carries. I
4 think it's time to eat, and thank you again Tanana for
5 taking such good care of us.

6

7 (Off record)

8 (On record)

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We'll reconvene the
11 meeting. We'll move now to Vince.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Let's see, before lunch
14 we finished up on the protocol, did we not, and the only
15 thing we have remaining is -- well, we have a lot of things
16 remaining but the thing that we need to probably start off
17 with right now would be discussion on the training,
18 fisheries training, Phase III, if that seems to be the
19 appropriate place. Above that is Yukon River Regional
20 Council January resolutions. That was just basically a
21 reminder that one of your Council members, Mr. Fleener,
22 requested that representatives from the Yukon River
23 Councils attend the North Pacific Fisheries Management
24 Council meeting. It was a request, we didn't know when
25 they were meeting and then we found out that they were
26 meeting in a couple of days. So we rushed through that and
27 Mr. Fleener went and Mr. Stickman for Western Interior and
28 I don't know if Fleener wants to share what happened there
29 but the main thing on the resolutions is, is that Micky
30 Stickman of Western Interior presented the three
31 resolutions to the North Pacific Fisheries. This is the
32 resolution on hatcheries, intercept fisheries delay and I
33 can't remember the third one. But anyways, they're in your
34 book.

35

36 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, yeah, Micky and
37 I went down to basically present these three resolutions
38 and what we thought should be done as far as managing the
39 fisheries out in the ocean, which North Pacific Fisheries
40 Management -- what is it, committee, council, organization,
41 whatever they're called, is responsible for managing and
42 Micky got up and presented the resolutions and he talked a
43 little bit about the plight of fishing in his area and
44 things that had -- what they missed out on in his neck of
45 the woods, and then I spoke more about the dismal fishing
46 conditions up in the Eastern Interior. I mentioned that I
47 thought they should try to impose extremely strict
48 regulations as far as bycatch and that they should limit
49 commercial catch. And I actually thought that I would get

50 jumped pretty hard because that's basically what their

00196

1 whole existence is about, is about commercial fishing. And
2 they were actually very receptive, very respectful and they
3 were very appreciative that people from the Interior
4 actually went to their meeting. And I don't know if they
5 were talking first time ever or just the first time in a
6 long time, but the Chairman said it was the first time --
7 and another guy said that it was the first time that people
8 had -- from the Interior had spoken on these issues and
9 that they were important to their considerations. And so I
10 think that it was a good trip, I think it was worthwhile,
11 and if we have issues like this in the future that we want
12 them to address, I think that it would be a valuable trip
13 for us to go on again.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I'd like to thank you for
16 going, Craig. It's very important to humanize an issue and
17 bring personalities into a problem so that they can see
18 that they're really dealing with people here.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: If there's no more discussion
21 on that then we would go into the training, E as in
22 Evansville on the agenda, if that's okay Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Please.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: We've talked about this at
27 various times throughout the day so this will go pretty
28 quick. You already know there'll be a four day training
29 session, I believe it is, in Anchorage, and that one
30 session will be dealing with the fisheries monitoring
31 projects. There's a list in your book, the last page of
32 Tab D that has this same thing and I'll quickly go over,
33 but mainly what we want to get across from you is any
34 inputs, suggestions, ideas of how to do this training
35 session that's coming up in January. So basically the
36 training session will look and review draft fisheries
37 studies plans. We've already talked about that. There'll
38 be a session on in-season management. There'll be a
39 discussion point of topic on the status of Western Alaska
40 salmon runs. Fisheries assessment methods. Developing
41 fisheries studies proposals. Again, that goes back to kind
42 of number one. And then fishery regulatory process.
43 You've already said you wanted to have caucus with your --
44 the full coordinating fisheries committee for the Yukon,
45 and you've already indicated that you want to have a
46 meeting with the three councils.

47

48 That's pretty much it. This is a
49 combination of your request from your February meeting in

50 Fairbanks with Western Interior that you wanted a training

00197

1 session before you took up any proposals. In dialogue with
2 your Chair we weren't able to pull that off because
3 fisheries staff are managing during August and then trying
4 to look at it for November, fisheries staff were not
5 available due to other commitments of post-season and Board
6 of Fisheries activities as an example. So it was decided
7 to offer to the Chairs to have this coupled with January,
8 both Chuck Miller and Ron Sam agreed to that. So this
9 training will incorporate your request on training how
10 fisheries management happens on the Yukon and for the
11 Western Interior, the Yukon and Kuskokwim.

12

13 So that's all I have on training. If you
14 have any suggestions on the training that's coming up we
15 can talk about them now or if you want to individually
16 contact Donald on it, I am on the committee that's putting
17 the training session together so Donald will feed it to me
18 and I'll work with it as the committee, one of the
19 committee people that are designing this training.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Under number 2 there, it
22 says Yukon, Kuskokwim and Kodiak/Aleutians, what is that
23 referring to?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if you
26 remember, in Anchorage, there was a request that
27 representatives of the Kodiak/Aleutians be involved when
28 there's discussions on the Yukon that might affect them.
29 This was just there to reaffirm that you guys agree that
30 representatives could be present at Council meetings where
31 you discuss actions that may impact their fisheries.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, I'm just wondering
34 why Western Interior wasn't listed.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that was
37 basically an oversight on my part. I mean they're
38 obviously in there. It's just an oversight on my part.
39 When you do two agendas, one for Eastern and one for
40 Western, sometimes the global replace doesn't work. But
41 it's just to get an affirmation from you that you're more
42 than -- that you'll allow representatives, they're welcome
43 from Kodiak/Aleutians to listen in.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead.

46

47 MR. NICHOLIA: I'm kind of leery about
48 inviting Kodiak/Aleutians. We're trying to protect,
49 through these three RACs, YK, Western and Eastern, we're

50 trying to protect those resources for the subsistence needs

00198

1 of these people in this region, these three regions. And
2 it seems like to me with my experience with fisheries is
3 that what we say may be used against us by them. I've seen
4 a lot of that and I'm kind of leery about inviting them to
5 our meetings where they can influence one of the three RACs
6 to disband from this Yukon River-wide committee we got
7 going here. I don't want that coordinating committee to
8 have to go through so much turmoil all the time. Why
9 include more disruption now when they could just find out
10 through you guys what we are doing?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, let me make it
13 clear that this training in January, all 10 Regional
14 Councils will be there. So the agenda that's in front of
15 you listing Kodiak/Aleutians was drafted before that was
16 going to be -- wasn't known to me that this 10 was going to
17 go on. But your point is, is that, you have reservations
18 that when the three Councils or an individual Council takes
19 action, that you have hesitency -- an action that may
20 impact the fisheries in the Kodiak/Aleutians, that you have
21 concerns about the representatives of Kodiak/Aleutians
22 listening in; is that.....

23

24 MR. NICHOLIA: What they're doing out there
25 impacts our fishery here.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Are there any other
28 comments.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I'm sorry to
33 interrupt, with all the meetings that we have, I am a
34 member of the committee but I wasn't able to make the
35 meeting last week and I've just been informed that the
36 committee was looking at having, if Council members want
37 to, make presentations on topics of interest, right, Jerry?

38

39 MR. BERG: (Nods affirmatively)

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: So sorry I wasn't aware of
42 this earlier to get you up to speed on it. But if you do
43 have interests in making presentations at the training,
44 you're welcome to do that. And I think as this evolves,
45 we'll probably be coordinating and contacting the Chair on
46 suggestions on the agenda, et cetera. This is a chance for
47 the whole Council to give a thought on how they want the
48 training, what's in the training, how it should go and then
49 what's in it.

00199

1 CHAIRMAN GOOD: One comment, back to Gerald
2 here, that he's got a valid point and perhaps what we might
3 consider is in the scheduling of the meeting, perhaps we
4 might want to have the three Councils meet together first
5 and then face the fourth Council together, as a suggestion
6 for an alternative. Because I think it would be good to
7 face them and tell them what the problems are and meet them
8 as people, as real people.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, and to show
11 respect to Western Interior, they're requesting a full day
12 separate and I don't think that's going to happen but they
13 are requesting a full separate day of training because they
14 expressed concern that the training will not focus on the
15 Yukon or Kuskokwim. I hesitate to bring that up to you
16 because I don't think it will really get approved and I
17 think we can accommodate their need, but I think I wanted
18 to share with you, because it echoes what you're saying, is
19 that, the three Councils at some point during this training
20 want to be able to discuss amongst themselves their
21 fisheries and we'll need to accommodate that within the
22 schedule or add a day or whatever. And what you're also
23 saying is, is during that session, that you would rather
24 not have Kodiak/Aleutians representatives present.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Or at least that they would
27 attend later once we've had our conference.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think we got that.
30 Jerry, is there anything else from the meeting?

31
32 MR. BERG: (Nods negatively)

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: It's just, everything's
35 flying around the office so I'm glad he informed of me of
36 it. I just haven't had time to find out what happened at
37 the first planning meeting for the training.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GOOD: What's our next item,
40 Vince?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: The next item brings us out
43 of the fish situation into an issue that you've dealt with
44 over three or four years, three that I know of. This is
45 dealing with C&T use for Unit 13(C) and Unit 11. This is
46 concerning black bear, brown bear and goat. It's a request
47 for reconsideration, that's where someone puts in a request
48 to the Board saying we'd like you to reconsider your recent
49 decision based on these reasons, and then the Board goes

50 yes, we'll reconsider it or no. And the Board did approve

00200

1 to reconsider it so that means it comes before the Council
2 for you to look at and see if you would like to reconsider
3 your recommendation.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Now our recommendation this
6 last time, as I recall, was to defer to Southcentral.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: I believe you're correct on
9 that but George is coming up and will get it correct, but
10 I'm almost positive that you did defer to Southcentral on
11 all those proposals. But since it's being reconsidered and
12 since it affects current C&Ts that you have, or potentially
13 could affect, that's why it's back before you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, George.

16
17 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
18 summary, basically the Slana issue you did defer to the
19 Southcentral Council, the Southcentral Council chose to
20 deny C&T to the community of Slana. If you remember Slana
21 is split by the unit boundary river on one side, is part of
22 the community on the other side is the other part.
23 Reconsideration was granted and the Board will only grant
24 it if there is new evidence basically that wasn't brought
25 forward at the time the proposal was issued. Mr. Migvad
26 claimed that the letter had not been adequately -- the
27 letter that he had received from the Board stating that it
28 had been administrative error, had not been adequate and so
29 reconsideration was granted. In consultation with the
30 solicitor's office, the Board was advised that it was
31 probably not a good policy to split communities that have
32 separate C&Ts for communities. And communities being not
33 only the geographic essence of the community, the buildings
34 and their structures, but also the question of social
35 communities because in many parts of Alaska we don't have
36 boundaries around the entire social communities.

37
38 So the Board's action was to go ahead and
39 unit Slana, treat it as one community. Issue the old Slana
40 portion, which is in Unit 11 -- no 13(C), excuse me, the
41 same C&Ts as for in Unit 11, and do the same for the Unit
42 11 communities, grant them the same C&T as the Unit 13(C)
43 community had, therefore, treating them as one community
44 and giving them C&T.

45
46 The question before you is whether you
47 concur, I guess, with the Board adopting this as a formal
48 policy that, in fact, you do not split communities. Your
49 past actions have basically led to this concurrence. You

50 do have communities, Nenana, for example, is split within

00201

1 two different GMUs and you have taken action, one at a time
2 to try to bring these things in unison. Potentially Delta
3 might be another area where you have people that live
4 across the Delta River, which is not maybe part of the
5 geographic community but certainly part of the social
6 community. So there are potentially a few communities in
7 this region that would be affected by this policy down the
8 road. So before you now is whether or not you concur with
9 the Board establishing a more formal policy that you do not
10 treat segments of a community despairingly in terms of C&T
11 determinations.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOOD: As I recall in deferring,
14 we were running a little short on time. A situation not
15 different in any way from where we are now and so we
16 deferred to Southcentral. But I have to say that in
17 general, our policy has been generally to be inclusive, not
18 to exclude people, but to bring them in.

19

20 So other Council member comments.

21

22 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I agree with
23 that. I'm not sure what form of a -- what sort of a motion
24 we would make but to be more inclusive and not to split the
25 community is what I think would be appropriate. Would that
26 be a motion to adopt the reconsideration, is that.....

27

28 MR. SHERROD: I think what would be best
29 would be a motion to adopt the Board's -- or support the
30 Board's position that formally recognizes the fact that
31 communities are not to be split in terms of C&T
32 determinations.

33

34 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, that's exactly
35 what I said.

36

37 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOOD: It's been moved and
40 seconded that this Council will support the Board's
41 position on the reconsideration. Is there any discussion
42 on the matter.

43

44 MR. FLEENER: Question.

45

46 MR. NICHOLIA: Question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Question has been called.
49 I see no indication of further discussion on this issue.

50 Those in favor please signify by saying aye.

00202

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Those opposed same sign.

4

5 (No opposing votes)

6

7 CHAIRMAN GOOD: The motion passes.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
10 brings us up into what you normally have done in the fall
11 meetings where you looked at what happened, what's your
12 scorecard with the Federal Subsistence Board on wildlife
13 proposals from last year and then you look at potential
14 proposals that you would like to write or hear about for
15 the next season. So if you look in your file that I
16 provided you, there's a listing of all the proposals that
17 you took up last time. And if Donald could pass out this,
18 what I'm addressing here is some of you may remember, I
19 always talk about the 805(c) letter. For those that are
20 new to this and those that want to understand this better,
21 basically the Federal Subsistence Board can reject your
22 recommendation, Regional Council recommendation if it
23 violates recognized principals of wildlife conservation, if
24 it's not based on substantial evidence or if it's
25 detrimental to subsistence. If it rejects your
26 recommendation it needs to explain why it rejected your
27 recommendation and that's usually done in the form of a
28 letter that's being passed out, it's called 805(c). The
29 letter that's being handed out is summarized in that other
30 item that I talked to you about in your thing.

31

32 So basically, you took up 15 proposals last
33 February. You had alignment between your recommendation
34 and Board action on eight of them. You had divergence.
35 You didn't agree, your recommendation was not adopted by
36 the Board for one and you had no action. What I should
37 have put down there is you deferred action on five of them
38 and then there's one that it's not clear if there's
39 alignment or not.

40

41 So the ones that are aligned, I don't think
42 we need to spend time on, it's where you diverged. You
43 diverged on Proposal 60. That was to deal with moose in
44 Unit 25(D) west. It was to increase the number of permits
45 for a bull and cow season and establish a community-based
46 moose management program. You supported with modification
47 the proposal and the modification to delete reference to
48 the State Tier II hunt. The Federal Subsistence Board
49 passed the Staff recommendation to have 60 bull moose quota

50 and -- which would result in increase of Federal permits to

00203

1 60, 25 for Stevens Village, 25 for Beaver and 10 for Birch
2 Creek, and deferral on tribal management until a jointly
3 developed moose management plan is completed. I consider
4 that a diversion because they didn't adopt the cow part of
5 your recommendation.

6
7 Okay, the other one that's questionable, I
8 hope I can find here real quick, is Proposal -- oh, yes,
9 how could I forget, and that's Proposal 20 and that's on
10 Page 2 there, summarized. It's to eliminate the
11 requirement to have evidence of sex attached. You
12 supported with modification. I apologize, I don't remember
13 what modification -- oh, you had the modification to deal
14 with meat on the head. I'd have to pull it from another
15 section. And there was a joint one with Western Interior.
16 The Federal Subsistence Board passed this modified by
17 Southcentral Regional Council to be for Units 11 and 13,
18 where the hunter may possess either sufficient portions of
19 the external sex organs still attached to the portion of
20 the carcass or the head with or without antlers attached to
21 indicate the sex of the harvested moose. So I didn't know
22 if that was alignment or not so I put question mark.

23
24 So the 805 letter is taken from this chart.
25 I'll stop there and see if there's any questions. I'm not
26 ignoring the other proposals where there was alignment or
27 not but I think in reference to time it might be best to
28 not go over each of those.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: If there's no questions,
33 that's fine. But for the audience here, this is a very
34 powerful that ANILCA placed within Title VIII, and that's
35 why I went through the lengthy explanation on
36 recommendations and their status within the Board. Most of
37 the Council members on here know that very well, that
38 that's.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Vince, while we may not
41 necessarily agree with what they have done, they have at
42 least provided us with the logic and the rationale. We
43 understand what they did. I think overall our scorecard
44 does look pretty good here.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
47 brings us up to the second portion of the wildlife issues.
48 This one is kind of hard to define so this one you kind of
49 roll up your sleeves and see what comes forth. This is

50 where, if you know of issues, if you know of potential

00204

1 proposals or if you know of ones that have been submitted,
2 that you may want to discuss them.

3

4 And then I believe Pete's got some -- over
5 the years we've done alignments, alignments where the
6 State's season may be more liberal in length or harvest or
7 something. It doesn't mean you have to go with these, it's
8 just the Staff has looked at it to make it less confusing.
9 I always remember Philip Titus with his two canoes, one for
10 the reg books and one for his gear, so this is in light of
11 his concern in the past. So with that, I'll stop and see
12 if -- how you want to proceed or if you know of other
13 proposals that you may want to have Staff assist with
14 writing.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Vince, why don't we take
17 five minutes here to allow us to look it over.

18

19 (Off record)

20 (On record)

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I'd like to reconvene and
23 call the meeting back to order here. In the meantime it
24 has been called to my attention that we have a couple of
25 alignment things that we need in Unit 12 with both moose
26 and lynx. Now, if there are other things that people note,
27 they need to let us know.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Greg McClellan
30 of Yukon Flats Refuge has a proposal he'd like to share
31 with the Council at some point. And then that's all the
32 ones that I know of besides the ones we just handed out.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay, we'll see if we can
35 handle ours first unless -- is he under an impending
36 airplane here or.....

37

38 MR. McCLELLAN: No, I'm not.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: No, he's not.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay, we'll continue right
45 now and get him a little later.

46

47 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, I have one
48 regulation that I would like to be aligned. There's a
49 State brown bear season in the remainder of 25 for

50 September 1 to May 31st and there's no Federal season for

00205

1 the remainder of Unit 25, and I'd like to see those
2 aligned. And if you need anymore clarification I can
3 answer questions.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Pete. Pete, you
6 did get my comments on the moose and lynx for Unit 12?

7

8 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, Mr. Chair. If I
9 understand correctly you want the Federal regs aligned for
10 moose and lynx in Unit 12 with the State. In Unit 12,
11 which part of 12, just for the record, for the moose?

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I'll ask for a little
14 assistance here, I'll get the big guy up here.

15

16 MR. SCHULZ: Robert Schulz, Tetlin National
17 Wildlife Refuge. I believe it's for the remainder of Unit
18 12, that includes Refuge lands. I believe also the Board
19 should probably look at 20(E) because I believe that the
20 moose season there is going to be the same and for the wild
21 and scenic river corridor there. I don't believe either
22 one of them has a moose population that will sustain a
23 longer hunting season than what the State is proposing.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Is there any other comments
28 here from the Council. Okay, we have Greg McClellan that
29 he wishes to present, go ahead, Greg.

30

31 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 My name is Greg McClellan with Yukon Flats National
33 Wildlife Refuge. I just wanted to give a quick heads up
34 that the Refuge is putting in a proposal to change the C&T
35 determination for moose in 25(B) West from the three --
36 from being a resident of one of the three villages, Stevens
37 Village, Beaver and Birch Creek to residents -- to just
38 residents of the subunit.

39

40 If I can quickly read from my draft
41 proposal why the regulation should be made. There's at
42 least one resident of subunit 25(B) west who lives on his
43 Native allotment and is not a resident of Beaver, Birch
44 Creek or Stevens Village. The current regulations which
45 require that an individual be a resident of one of these
46 three villages to get a Federal registration permit prevent
47 this individual and any other residents of the area who do
48 not reside in one of the three villages from legally
49 hunting moose on Refuge lands surrounding his allotment.

00206

1 And we've sent copies of the draft proposal
2 to Council member Fleener and Davey James and also to the
3 three village chiefs of Beaver, Stevens Village and Birch
4 Creek and then to ADF&G, and so it will be before you at
5 the winter meeting. But I just wanted to give you a heads
6 up that we were putting it in.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Greg. Does
9 anybody have anything else? It would seem then that we'll
10 be dealing with the Fortymile caribou as well and since
11 that will be a proposal that we're going to be working on,
12 I think this might be the best -- go ahead, Pete.

13
14 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, at this time I
15 think it would be more efficient to get some of the easier
16 ones out of the way and leave that for last. Get the ball
17 rolling so to speak.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay, what do you got?

20
21 MR. DeMATTEO: That handout I gave you is
22 the ongoing request by the Council to have Staff monitor
23 where the State regulations become more liberal than the
24 Federal regulations because of Board of Game actions. It's
25 divided into two parts, actually. The first page is not
26 season and bag limit changes but actually it's definitions,
27 regulatory definitions.

28
29 Currently in the Federal regulatory
30 definitions, lack definitions for the three terms, bait,
31 drainage and salvage. And if you look at the second half
32 of the page there it says, existing State regulations.
33 Those are the three State definitions for those three
34 terms. Do you wish to see a proposal put forth that would
35 adopt those three regulatory definitions into the Federal
36 regs?

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Yes, I think we would,
39 especially with the concerns that we've had about salvage
40 of meat. If we don't have them on our own Federal lands, I
41 can't believe we didn't have it defined. Thank you, Pete.

42
43 MR. DeMATTEO: And the second part is, if I
44 heard correctly yesterday, somebody wanted the term
45 airborne qualified and by regulation, there's a definition
46 for aircraft in the Federal regulations but not for
47 airborne.

48
49 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, that's correct. I

50 mentioned it yesterday and I think there was quite a bit of

00207

1 discussion from this meeting and a meeting just before this
2 one where there was concern that it wasn't defined enough
3 in the regulations to determine whether or not being in a
4 hot air balloon or whatever was considered as being --
5 flying or airborne or whatever. So we want to make sure
6 that that's defined well enough and I'm not sure how it's
7 defined or not.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GOOD: A comment here. I don't
10 really understand why helicopters would be excluded as
11 aircraft.

12

13 MR. DeMATTEO: Well, I sure don't either,
14 Mr. Chair.

15

16 MR. SHERROD: I can answer that, Mr. Chair.
17 There are regulations prohibiting the use of aircraft for
18 all forms of hunting and trapping and, therefore, it's
19 dropped from these regulations that allow the use of
20 aircraft to move from reg -- from airport to airport,
21 scheduled flights and so on, but helicopters, use of
22 helicopters in hunting and trapping, there's a general
23 provision against it so it's dropped, but then dealt with
24 later on in the regulations.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GOOD: And George, you are saying
27 that is in our regulations, right?

28

29 MR. SHERROD: That is correct.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay.

32

33 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, there's a
34 definition for aircraft here, but do the actual regulations
35 say aircraft or airborne when we're dealing with
36 transporting people or getting from place to place,
37 transporting game?

38

39 MR. SHERROD: The term is airborne and
40 that's why, I think, you're right we need the definition.
41 And as far as the other definitions, these are words that
42 are used in other prohibitions or -- so they need to be
43 also defined, but, yeah, it's airborne in the regulations
44 and we lack a definition for airborne [sic], and we can
45 check other Federal regulations or come up with one that
46 would be suitable.

47

48 MR. FLEENER: Thank you.

49

MR. DeMATTEO: Shall I continue, Mr. Chair?

00208

1 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Please.

2

3 MR. DeMATTEO: On the second page of your
4 handout is existing Federal regulation for the area
5 description for the Fairbanks Management Area. The second
6 half of the page is the existing State regulation for the
7 same description for the Fairbanks Management Area. I'm
8 not quite sure how they differ. As you can see there's a
9 lot to swallow there but they are different. I may call on
10 George once again, if I may, since he attended the Board of
11 Game meeting, he may have some insight.

12

13 MR. SHERROD: Yes, Mr. Chair, the Board of
14 Game expanded the Fairbanks Management Area and there are
15 Federal lands now within that area. So just for sake of
16 clarity and keeping the books similar we thought it would
17 be a good idea to add that definition. The prohibitions in
18 the Fairbanks Management Area would not apply to the
19 Federal qualified hunters but at least they would know
20 where they're at.

21

22 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, it seems like then
23 if the State has expanded their definition why haven't we
24 just followed suit with the same wording because it seems
25 like we're missing at least 30 words in the top definition
26 here.

27

28 MR. SHERROD: That's what we're trying to
29 do right now.

30

31 MR. FLEENER: Okay, good.

32

33 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, the third page of
34 the handout deals with caribou in Unit 20(F). I have a
35 very crude hand-drawn map that hopefully will assist us
36 with this.

37

38 The red outline is roughly the outline of
39 Unit 20(F). As you can see, the blue is the major rivers,
40 Tozitna on the left and the Yukon bisects the subunit right
41 in half and then to the south is the Tanana. Also the
42 black line that comes down from the right there is the
43 Dalton Highway. If you see the purple outlines there, that
44 is all the Federal lands in the subunit. On the Tozitna
45 River there's two BLM jurisdiction lands there in the
46 headwater areas and on the top of the subunit on both sides
47 of the Dalton Highway, you see the Dalton Highway
48 management corridor managed by the BLM and just south of
49 the Yukon and right of the Dalton Highway there's the

50 little finger of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge

00209

1 in there. But that is all the Federal lands within the
2 subunit.

3

4 At the top of the page you see existing
5 Federal regulations. In the Federal regulations, the area
6 descriptions are basically divided into three sections.
7 The Tozitna River and then the second one is this area
8 south of the Yukon River and then the remainder of 20(F).
9 The Board of Game changed the State regulations back in
10 March and essentially they differ somewhat from ours and
11 that is Unit 20(F) north of the river is August 10th to
12 March 31st. If you look at the map again, over on the
13 Tozitna River, the regulations for the Tozi, which again is
14 north of the Yukon River is August 10th through September
15 30th and there's another season, November 26th through
16 December 10th and March 1st through March 15th. The new
17 State season goes August 10th straight through to March
18 31st so, therefore, it is more liberal.

19

20 But that would also cover over the Dalton
21 Highway Management Corridor. That current season is August
22 10th through September 30th. The State season for there,
23 the new State season would be August 10th straight through
24 to March 31st, again.

25

26 And then south of the Yukon River and east
27 of the highway, the Federal regulation is December 1st to
28 the 31st, the State season is August 10th through September
29 20th and then there's another season, November 1st through
30 March 31st. So there you have again, the State season is
31 different and somewhat more liberal.

32

33 Then the State also has a regulation for
34 south of the Yukon River and west of the Dalton Highway. I
35 didn't add that simply because there's no Federal lands in
36 this area whatsoever.

37

38 So do you wish to see a proposal go forth
39 to the Federal Board reflecting these changes?

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I'm certain that we want to
42 see a proposal go forth that gives us every advantage that
43 the State currently has.

44

45 MR. DeMATTEO: So noted. On the next page,
46 this is for caribou, Unit 25. The Federal regulations
47 currently use the Steese Highway as sort of a divider
48 between the two regulatory areas. The first area is that
49 portion north and west of the Steese Highway. The other

50 areas, Unit 25(C), that portion south and east of the

00210

1 Steese Highway. The State changed their regulatory
2 description of the area simply because the Fortymile
3 Caribou Herd is now expanding, and last year, I believe at
4 this time, there was a number of the Fortymile Caribou that
5 parked themselves very close to the range of the Steese
6 White Mountain Herd and I believe that herd is about 2,000
7 animals or possibly less. So we do -- less than 2,000.

8
9 The current harvest quota for that herd is
10 30 animals per year. So you can bet we don't want to flirt
11 with disaster and that is if there were a number of
12 Fortymile animals in that area and with the much more
13 liberal harvest allocations that are about to take place
14 next year, certainly we need a buffer in between. So the
15 State elected to go with a new boundary, north of the
16 Steese Highway and that is west of the east bank of the
17 mainstem of the Preacher Creek to its confluence with the
18 American Creek and then west to the east bank to the
19 American Creek and essentially this just widens the
20 southern description to the north.

21
22 If you look on Page 144 of the Federal
23 regulations, from Page 144, you see Unit 25(C) and you see
24 the Steese Highway at the bottom of the page. To the north
25 of the highway there's -- I guess it's Goldenrod Federal
26 land which is BLM and to the south, again, you see more
27 Federal lands. You see the Preacher Creek right above the
28 word Steese National Conservation area. Essentially that
29 area from the highway up to Preacher Creek is now part of
30 the southern description. And that basically puts a good
31 buffer in between the Fortymile Herd and the Steese White
32 Mountain Herd should they occur very close to each other
33 when both seasons are open. This is probably a necessary
34 change that should go forward in Federal regulations as
35 well.

36
37 The second part is the remainder of 25(C)
38 which is everything else, that'd be the area south Preacher
39 Creek and also to the east, would be the remainder of
40 subunit 25(C). The State regulation for that is August 10
41 through September 30th and December 1 through 28th, and you
42 notice under that I added November 15th through February
43 28th following your directions where the Federal regs are
44 more liberal. So I assume you'd rather retain that in the
45 winter season rather than what the State has. But again,
46 Staff feels it would be a good measure to adopt the State
47 regulations to provide a good safe conservation measure for
48 the Steese White Mountain Herd.

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: I think we concur.

00211

1 MR. WILDE: The Federal will have to put
2 their own permits out because the State doesn't send the
3 permits up there until the 1st of December. There was a
4 ticket -- your licensee won't issue them until the 1st.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Actually as a comment I
7 think we're going to have to have separate permits for
8 caribou anyway at this point because I think -- I'm
9 anticipating some changes that will require a separate
10 Federal permit instead of a combined State and Federal.

11
12 MR. DeMATTEO: I guess I'll add at this
13 point that at this point if you wish we can put these
14 proposals forward and then an analysis will be written and
15 then you'll have a chance to review them in February.
16 Between now and then those fine points can be worked out.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GOOD: That would be fine.

19
20 MR. DeMATTEO: The last one deals with the
21 Fortymile Caribou Herd and it's the remaining three pages
22 of your handout. You see the existing Federal regulations
23 on the first page. The current Federal regulations deal
24 with a 150 bull harvest cap which has been in place for the
25 past five years as part of the recovery plan for the
26 Fortymile Herd. That will sunset this regulatory year and
27 next year the State has more liberal harvest quotas in
28 place. But they go into effect August of 2001.

29
30 On the next page which is this last two
31 pages of your handout, you'll see the new State
32 regulations, again that will go into effect next August,
33 and it's divvied up by subunits 20(b), 20(D), 20(E), 20(E)
34 remainder and Unit 25(C) remainder.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Now, everything that has
37 gone before this has been handled, you'll be taking the
38 direction of the Council on them, we don't need a motion on
39 everything that's come before?

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think it would be
42 easier if there's agreement by consensus that you went with
43 those proposals under your signature so we have it on the
44 record or you can do a formal motion. You know, it's just
45 that right now the record appears to be that you're in
46 concurrence but it would be best to make it clear on the
47 record that you are and that can be by consensus or by
48 motion.

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: I'll ask for a consensus,

00212

1 is there any objection from the other members of the
2 Council?

3

4 IN UNISON: (Nodding)

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We have official consensus.
7 Vince.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: I don't want to break away
10 from this but we do have a person that has to leave on a
11 plane that has a potential proposal. I don't know how much
12 time this Fortymile -- it's going to take awhile so it
13 might be best to take up -- he's kind of a quiet gentleman,
14 he's really famous with dogs, that he wants to talk about
15 the sale of bear parts. And so it might be good to take it
16 up because you're going to want to concentrate on
17 Fortymile. So maybe Gabe would like to talk about his
18 potential proposal on bear parts.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOOD: If you said, Gabe, you sure
21 got the wrong quiet person.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. G. SAM: I will try to be quiet.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, back in March there
30 was a petition to the Board of Game by Selena Alexander for
31 the sale of bear parts for arts and crafts and it was
32 presented by NARF, Native American Rights Fund. She had
33 Heather Kendall Miller there with her. And you know, it
34 just came right out of the blue and when we got wind of it,
35 I quickly had to scramble to get some kind of consensus
36 from our organization where we stand on it. And so what
37 came out of that is the Board of Game put a working group
38 together to take a look at this and talk about it.

39

40 So the working group that was put together
41 was Mike Fleagle, Chair of the working group, Joe Maddy as
42 a furbuyer, Dan Reed, Dave Anderson, Benedict Jones, Dr.
43 Fred Dean and Trooper Todd Sharp and myself. And we
44 discussed it, we went round and round for at least two or
45 three hours on this issue. You know I was initially there
46 because -- I wasn't there representing Tanana Chiefs, I was
47 there representing the Kuskokwim River interests because of
48 your cultural practice up there of hunting bears for our
49 subsistence needs. I guess in a sense it's a highly

50 praised animal in our culture up there. It's used for

00213

1 primarily subsistence foods, we don't sell any parts of the
2 bear. Right now as I speak, our people, you know, are
3 going out hunting in the dens right now and it's a practice
4 that's been going on for as long as I can remember, you
5 know. And so I went there with the frame of mind to
6 discuss our cultural practices.

7

8 There's a clear division within TCC itself
9 of the Yukon Flats people and what they do in terms of
10 hunting bears and what the Koyukuk River people do. And
11 also we had a meeting with the elders board and there's a
12 division there also. So we're not quite sure what we're
13 going to do with this. TCC does not have a formal position
14 on this but through this Board of Game working group
15 meeting we had, it was all opposed except for Mr. Fleagle,
16 Maddy, those were the only two that opposed -- I mean
17 supported the sale of bear parts. And one of the reasons
18 was, the sale of gall bladders. You know, they had this
19 long documentation of Utah selling gall bladders for like
20 \$1.25 a pound but whereas, you know, we have other reports
21 of it going from 2,000 to \$3,000 for a gall bladder, even
22 more so for grizzlies.

23

24 So if something's to be presented before
25 this Council or before the Board of Page, the feeling is to
26 put a price tag, you know, on this animal and part it out
27 like cars is going to have a really detrimental effect on
28 the resource. I mean they already sell antlers, you know.
29 But other than that, I just think that I think should be
30 taken into serious consideration.

31

32 I'm just looking through my notes here
33 trying to figure out, you know, we all voted -- you know,
34 it was voted down not to sell bear parts, anyway, and Mike
35 Chairman Fleagle was going to come up with written comments
36 of our meeting. That's pretty much all I have on that
37 right now. If there's any questions I'll be more than
38 happy to answer them.

39

40 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I don't have a
41 question right off the bat but I'd like to ask Gabe to stay
42 just for a moment just in case there are. But I've got
43 some comments for what I've been hearing in our area and
44 Gabe and I have talked about this a little bit and it's
45 going to create some controversy because there's -- I don't
46 know if it's cultural difference or just a difference of
47 opinion, but there's certainly differences all up and down
48 the river as to how we should handle the sale of bear
49 parts.

00214

1 In our area there's been quite a bit of
2 discussion as to getting involved in selling bear parts
3 especially with the increasing bear population, at least
4 what's seen as increasing bear population and people are
5 interested in using this as another source of income.

6
7 And as far as the sale of parts go, I
8 talked to a couple of fur houses or people in the fur
9 houses in Canada, I can't remember their names now, I wish
10 I could, but it's been legal to sell, I think black bear
11 parts, I don't think brown bear parts, but it's been legal
12 to sell black bear parts there for quite a while, and they
13 say that really you don't get much for all of the parts of
14 the bear. Skins go for about 30 bucks or you can get a
15 little bit more with real good hides and the rest of the
16 parts really don't sell for much so there's not a huge
17 market for it. I don't know where they're selling the
18 parts that they get, I don't know where the auction houses
19 are selling them at but according to the guys that I talked
20 to in two fur houses, the Western Canadian Fur Auction and
21 another one in Ontario, I can't remember the name of it
22 either, but they said that they -- for one black bear, you
23 wouldn't make more than \$200, there would just be no way.
24 And the parts just don't sell that well. And so as far as
25 the differences in gall bladder prices, I don't know how --
26 I don't know where the big numbers have come from, I don't
27 know where any of the numbers have come from but it would
28 take an awful lot. Even if it was \$3,000 a pound, I think
29 that's what you said, right, about there?

30
31 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, \$3,000 a gall
32 bladder.

33
34 MR. FLEENER: Oh, a gall bladder.

35
36 MR. G. SAM: Yeah.

37
38 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, I knew that -- at one
39 time I heard that they were selling it per pound and the
40 price I heard was pretty high but I didn't see any evidence
41 of that. But if it was per pound it takes a lot of dried
42 gall bladder to make a pound. But regardless it's going to
43 be a controversial issue but I just wanted to acknowledge
44 Gabe's concerns but also mention that there are other
45 interests in some other areas and if there were going to be
46 regulations as far as selling bear parts, that if there are
47 areas that don't want bear parts sold, maybe those areas
48 can be left out. And Gabe also pointed out that he didn't
49 want to see a great influx of additional hunters if this is

50 going to be another opportunity to make some money, that he

00215

1 didn't want to see it as an additional influx of outside
2 hunters into his area taking an animal that's prized and I
3 can certainly agree with that as well.

4

5 Those are just my comments, thanks.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GOOD: And we had this discussion,
8 it seems to me before in the past and it's always resulted
9 in controversy. There's also been a point made that in
10 those areas where we have big bear problems this might be
11 an incentive for people to go out and hunt them. But I
12 don't know, we don't have a proposal before us and I don't
13 know that anybody is going to submit one on this so I guess
14 we're safe for the moment, unless you submit one.

15

16 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I don't
17 believe in selling any parts of the bear myself because it
18 just goes against what I was raised up, the culture I was
19 raised up in. If anybody else on this Board believes
20 otherwise, I believe this Board is going to have to be
21 controversial on it, too.

22

23 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chairman, this kind of
24 leads into spiritual and religion belief from one tribal
25 group to another, going to a different region and another
26 group there. Especially when we have a high population of
27 bears in our area that's killing 85 percent of our moose
28 calves in the first -- in the springtime. You know, we
29 have a big problem up there and we want to get our moose
30 population back up there. I heard a few people have been
31 -- they don't sell parts but that's -- I see people walking
32 around with bear claws, with eagle claws, you know, and
33 that's -- that's just like selling and showing off animals.
34 I don't believe in worshiping animals, you know, that --
35 when you're getting into spiritual and religion beliefs,
36 you know.

37

38 Well, that's my own opinion there and I
39 think we got to be careful, you know, of one area people,
40 how they respect animals -- we should respect that but when
41 we're crossing the line into religion and spiritual belief,
42 you're into a different realm. And our management issue
43 right here is Yukon Flats have to bring their moose
44 population back up, you know, and we're now into the
45 Western ways, I guess. Some of those people just trying to
46 make a living, you know, a dollar, five dollars or \$10.
47 But comes down to it, you know, even too, you don't sell
48 your bear claws or your teeth but you still wear it, that's
49 still showing off the animal. And so it's really a touchy

50 situation there.

00216

1 Going back to this working group, you know,
2 you got a furbuyer on there, you know, you got people that,
3 you know, you're going to get your opinions from others,
4 you know, more like that, just even one side of the opinion
5 on that there and maybe you should have got somebody from
6 the Yukon Flats area -- up there selling that stuff, you
7 know, see what they have to say. I don't know kind of
8 spread it out, I guess. I don't know how you guys
9 collected your individuals.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Gabe.

16

17 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chairman, when they
18 organized this working group, they did ask an individual if
19 she would like to be on this working group to present her
20 side of the case but according to her attorneys she chose
21 not to. And Joe Maddy, you know, sells art, Native
22 artworks and stuff and a strong proponent for this, so is
23 Mr. Fleagle. I had a hard time trying to poll the
24 different regions on this, you know, trying to get a better
25 perspective on what we -- I didn't want to disrespect any
26 culture and their practices but at the same time in my own
27 cultural upbringing, I could not deny that. And so I had
28 to basically sit down with, you know, our president and
29 because he being from Fort Yukon, you know, if it comes to
30 a head, we may have to have a teleconference with the
31 regionwide, in our region to discuss this matter. It's
32 such a great importance for the people on the Koyukuk River
33 that we're willing to go to great lengths to -- I keep
34 saying, we're, because you know to fight for what's
35 rightfully our way of life. And different regions have
36 different cultures and we respect that. But also at the
37 same time, you know, the sale of bear parts may open the
38 door to a lot of things. I've never seen a bear gall
39 bladder, you know, but from what I understand it's a pretty
40 accessible to get to it and there could be questions of
41 wanton waste down the road. If there's a problem up in the
42 Flats with too many bears, you know, I think it's ADF&Gs
43 responsibility to take a good look at that. But you know
44 to put a price tag on it, I don't think is the answer.

45

46 There was -- from the Danakanaga's point of
47 view, we met with Danakanaga for a good hour and a half to
48 discuss this and it was a very touchy situation. The
49 discussion quickly surrounded, well, that's your practice

50 and, you know, we didn't want to get into -- I didn't want

00217

1 to get in between the elders and have them on my case. So
2 that's how disruptive it is, so with that said, unless this
3 Board is going to do anything about it, you know, I'm just
4 here to provide the information.

5

6 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have a question.
7 You said that Selena and the lawyers brought some sort of a
8 proposal forward, was that a State proposal but we don't
9 have one, a Federal proposal, is that the case?

10

11 MR. G. SAM: Mr. Chair, it was a petition
12 to the Board of Game through the NARF attorney. It's not a
13 proposal yet. But you know, through Dave Anderson's
14 research on this, there's no question that there was Native
15 arts and crafts made of bear claws, you know, there's no
16 question about that. In our region I asked around about it
17 and in the old days they used to hunt bears in the dens
18 with spears, not just black bears but grizzlies. It's
19 something to come across a grizzly when you're hunting
20 black bears in dens because you're hunting along the same
21 time the grizzlies are hunting. And when we come across a
22 grizzly kill out in the woods we're out of there, we're
23 gone. We don't hang around and see what's going to happen
24 next because they're around somewhere. There's just a big
25 pile of leaves and they pretty much stake that out as
26 theirs. And if you're not out of there, you know, it's
27 your problem. But that's how we respect them so much but
28 we do hunt them if we could get them out in the open.

29

30 And once we get one we do all the practices
31 of cutting the eyes out because we believe the animal is
32 still watching you. If you ever caught a bear, you'd see
33 the eyes are still open so it's still watching you and you
34 better be very respectful of what you do when you're
35 skinning it and stuff. And you just don't throw it in the
36 sleigh and take off, you have tea (ph) and come back the
37 next day to pick it up. You know after the season of
38 hunting bears are over, the men, that has bear back bones,
39 they go out in the woods somewhere and have, what we call a
40 bear party, no women are allowed, it's just men and young
41 men and young boys and go out and listen to stories of the
42 -- that's the only time they talk of what they did when
43 they're hunting. It's not to brag but to educate the young
44 boys of what not to do while you're out hunting because
45 it's the practice. You're trained when you're small. I
46 still remember the first time I crawled into a den, your
47 heart's just pounding and, you know, your hands are shaking
48 and it's really something to go into a dark cave with just
49 a flashlight and a gun and you hear the breathing in the

50 cave.

00218

1 So that's something that, you know, may go
2 away some day because it's not being passed down, and then
3 who knows maybe there may be a sale on bear parts then.
4 But until then we're going to have to protect that way of
5 life.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Gabe. And thank
10 you for the heads up on what might become an issue for us.
11 Right now we have nothing, we have no proposals or nothing
12 on the horizon that we know of and we'll just have to wait
13 and see what happens.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 Okay, I think we're ready to do Fortymile
18 now. Why don't we bring Craig Gardner up here and he'll
19 give us a report on it first. He's been waiting and so
20 anxious to do this anyway. Did you have an update to give
21 us first, at all, Pete?

22
23 MR. DeMATTEO: Not really an update like
24 Mr. Gardner has, but I was just going to introduce, that
25 the Federal regulation that's currently in the books for
26 the Fortymile Caribou Herd is going to sunset after this
27 regulator year. So you need to actually do something, put
28 forward some proposal for new regulation, be it, adopt the
29 State's or whatever. You may want to listen to Mr.
30 Gardner's presentation first.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Pete.

33
34 MR. GARDNER: I'm Craig Gardner, the area
35 biologist in Tok, Fish and Game. Kind of prompt me as we
36 go along what you guys need and want, I'm going to kind of
37 wing it. I guess it's always good to start with the
38 success and I think the Fortymile Herd is one of the real
39 shining lights of caribou herds in the Interior. Where all
40 the rest of the caribou herds are declining, the Fortymile
41 Herd is increasing and actually quite rapidly. Our census
42 this summer was 34,600, another six percent increase over
43 what it was the year before but there's no doubt that it
44 actually increased more than that. The herd is just
45 getting harder to count. And one of the reasons why is
46 because it's getting to be more successful. The herd is
47 just getting a lot more spread out.

48
49 You know, one of the goals of the whole

50 plan was to start having people from all over the Interior

00219

1 to start seeing Fortymile caribou, and that's starting to
2 happen. I think Pay Saylor was here last year talking
3 about caribou in Healy Lake, there's probably 20,000
4 caribou now looking over Delta. They're getting a lot more
5 around the central area and across the west side of the
6 Steese and even Fairbanks is starting to see them. There
7 was reports of both caribou on Chena Hot Springs Road this
8 fall. So the herd's starting to kind of expand at the
9 seems and we're going to start seeing Fortymile Caribou,
10 you know, who knows maybe in Fort Yukon.

11

12 But anyway, so it's been a real success and
13 since we started the program, you know, it's gone from
14 21,000 now up to 35,000 and basically it's grown probably
15 anywhere from five to 10 percent a year.

16

17 The harvest plan was kind of presented to
18 you last year and we took it in front of the Game Board
19 last spring just because of the way the Game Board operates
20 now, it's on a two year cycle by region. And so for us to
21 liberalize seasons next year we had to kind of go off a
22 year before it happened. Now, I see that Pete handed out
23 pretty much what the State changed. And probably -- some
24 of the questions when I first got here to kind of explain
25 it for the record is that when you look at the State up to
26 quotas for each one of the three areas, that's -- if you
27 add it up, I think it's like 1,800 caribou. And I think a
28 lot of people think that next year's quota is actually
29 going to be around 800, 850, well, that's correct. Next
30 year's quota will be 850 but what I did when I actually
31 wrote that proposal for the Game Board and the reason why
32 it was adopted in that manner was so we didn't have to come
33 back every year with a proposal, you know, to increase the
34 quota. And so what that number is reflecting is actually
35 what we expect the herd to do over the next five years.
36 You know, if it continues on the growth pace that it's
37 starting to show, we can keep increasing that quota on an
38 annual basis and by the time year four or five comes
39 around, we'll actually be seeing quotas over 1,800 caribou
40 on an annual basis. So that's where it comes from.

41

42 Now, the management plan that was actually
43 endorsed by the Board of Game, actually has the five year
44 schedule in it. You know, next year's 850, I think the
45 year after that is closer to 1,100, 1,200, the year after
46 that is 1,400, so it just basically has incremental growth
47 and it's based on heard growth. So if there's a little
48 confusion in how the proposal is written that's where it
49 came from and it's just mainly that we didn't have to keep

50 bothering the Councils and the Committees with a proposal

00220

1 every year.

2

3 Okay, I guess the main changes in the State
4 proposal that, you know, I guess Pete gave it to you, but
5 just to highlight the real changes, is that it's different
6 than what the State and Federal regs were this year is now
7 the quota went from 150 to 850. I mean that's what it will
8 be next year, 850 caribou.

9

10 The State hunt and the Federal hunt, this
11 year, it was divided into three areas and that's going to
12 remain. The boundaries of the three areas changed, it was
13 changed a little bit, it's to kind of reflect traditional
14 harvest and take. And like during the 150 caribou days,
15 we're still going to break it out between winter and fall
16 seasons and 25 percent will still be allocated to the
17 winter and 75 percent to the fall.

18

19 Yes.

20

21 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, the thing that's
22 most confusing about how this is laid out for us is that it
23 doesn't say 850, and I'm wondering, if this is going to go
24 into the reg book exactly like this, it's going to confuse
25 thousands of people who are potentially going to want to
26 hunt this herd. They're going to see 20(B) 300, 20(D) 300,
27 20(E) 300, 20(E) remainder 900, 25(C) 600, they're going to
28 see these numbers and say, boy, that's a lot of caribou,
29 this is where I'm going to hunt. They're not going to see
30 850 divided up into three sections or are they? Do you
31 have a copy of this?

32

33 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, yeah, I do.

34

35 MR. FLEENER: Okay.

36

37 MR. GARDNER: I'm trying to think if in the
38 actual regulations book, is the quota actually listed in
39 the regulation book that people see or does it just give
40 the bag limit and the season date?

41

42 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, we did for the
43 Federal regs, I can't picture the State's in my head. But
44 right now it's 150 and it specifically states will not
45 exceed 850, but that's what we've done in the past.

46

47 MR. FLEENER: Yes, Mr. Chair, but this
48 thing right here says new State reg will go into effect
49 August 2001 and if this is what it's going to say August

50 2001, it's still going to be confusing to the hunter Q

00221

1 public.

2

3

CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Terry.

4

5

MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Terry Haynes, Department of Fish and Game. The State regulation booklet typically doesn't include all of that detail. It would be the up to number of permits and so forth, usually appears only in the registration hunt permit supplement so that if hunters are interested in a registration permit hunt, they need to pick up that supplement and then they'll see the details about how many permits are available for that year.

13

14

MR. FLEENER: Okay, Mr. Chair, so it will be similar to other registration hunts, it will be put out in the little newspaper and then they'll -- okay, I got it.

17

18

CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Craig.

19

20

MR. GARDNER: Okay. Then the other changes -- and one more thing, that's a good question Craig, and Terry says it goes into the registration supplement but then to keep confusion down, the registration supplement, of course, gives us a lot more flexibility of what language we put in there. And if you look in there it explains the up to language that it based on herd growth and based on the master plan, you know, so hopefully hunters aren't led astray on that.

29

30

Okay, the other changes that were made is it's always been a one bull caribou bag for a long time, you know, not just the last five years but probably the last 10 or 12 years and now it's been changed to one caribou for across the herd's range. But to ensure that harvest is not going to stop the growth rate of the herd, there's going to be a quota based on number of cows, and that kind of came from the Central and from the Eagle Advisory Committees. You know, there's a lot of concern on cow take. And so we're actually going to have a quota on cows, and so if they hit above -- well, 25 percent of the quota becomes cows we're going to actually make it a bull only season.

43

44

Okay, now, there's one thing that the State did that I think is not something anything the Federal Subsistence Board has to deal with but I think it's something the Regional Council needs to hear because it's going to protect the subsistence user. The big concern I had in Unit 20(E) in particular is that the moose

49

50 population is real low density. Now, what's going to

00222

1 happen when we add 3,000 possible caribou hunters into
2 20(E) and they see a bull moose. I mean let's face it,
3 everybody's a moose hunter, you know, so I had a lot of
4 concern on incidental take of moose. And so what we did on
5 the State hunt -- well, we did two things but the main
6 thing that's going to help the subsistence user is that
7 we're going to change -- for every hunter that comes in
8 Unit 20(E) -- well, a majority of 20(E), they're going to
9 have to choose are they going to hunt moose or are they
10 going to hunt caribou, they can't hunt both at once. It
11 doesn't preclude you from going back and hunting the other
12 one. But it says when you go into the field you can only
13 be carrying one permit, either moose or caribou. Now, what
14 that's going to do for the local resident is basically you
15 got, you know, between August 10th and September 30th to
16 hunt caribou and you got between, you know a 15 day moose
17 season so you can do both. Now, if you're traveling to the
18 area from a long distance, you only have one hunt and now
19 you're going to have to choose. And so it's going to
20 benefit the local user in both the moose and caribou.

21
22 So anyway, that's one of the things that
23 the Board did last spring on the State side.

24
25 I think that pretty much explains the
26 actual State changes. The way the quota's were divided
27 between the three areas were based on traditional harvest
28 and traditional, not meaning hundreds and hundreds of
29 years, but traditional back to say the last time the herd
30 was large, back from the '60s on. And what we looked at,
31 pretty much where the herd was taken on the C-side, Central
32 range and that's how we subdivided the quota, you know,
33 from the whole -- the parts.

34
35 But that's how we are on the State and if
36 there's any questions on that. Yeah.

37
38 MR. JAMES: Yeah, I have one here. How
39 will the Pogo mine affect your herd?

40
41 MR. GARDNER: That's a great question.
42 Actually the Pogo mine, in and of itself, isn't probably
43 going to have much impact, it's on kind of the far western
44 southern border right now and -- and basically it's a
45 pretty small confined area. Now, the herd doesn't winter
46 in there, but in itself, it's probably not going to make
47 that large of an impact. If there's going to be an impact
48 from the Pogo mine it's not going to be -- I don't think
49 from that particular project. I think what can happen, you

50 know, they're applying now for an all year road and in

00223

1 itself the one road's not going to probably make much
2 difference to the herd. I mean you can manage harvest from
3 a road, I mean we've proven it all over the state. But
4 what it could be if all of a sudden all these other claims
5 start showing economic feasibility because now there's
6 access into there and all of a sudden we start seeing what,
7 I guess, the developers would call it spaghetti of road,
8 well, then we might start seeing a larger impact, if once
9 the herd starts expanding and you start having a lot more
10 transport. That's the impact I can see down the road.

11

12 MR. JAMES: Another issue on impact on
13 those caribou, do you notice any impact on the military
14 training, exercises they have down there?

15

16 MR. GARDNER: Well, there's been a couple
17 of things that have been done the last couple of years that
18 I think has really minimized that. We've been doing --
19 since we're out there during calving and post-calving on a
20 daily basis, what we've been doing is we fly, then we put
21 the locations of the herd on a web site. And what the
22 military has agreed to do is that they pull this off a web
23 site and then when they have their pilot meeting prior to
24 their exercises that day, they actually have a briefing and
25 what we do is we identify the concentration areas of the
26 herd. And what they would do is actually then plan their
27 exercises away from those points. And we were out there
28 and actually the last -- well, especially last summer,
29 actually they should be commended, they stayed out of
30 there.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Along those lines, though,
33 if the caribou do continue in their reclamation of their
34 historic range and they do move across the Richardson
35 Highway south towards the Alaska range, the route would
36 lead them right across the current Fort Greely bombing
37 range, which crossing it without bombers can be dangerous
38 but if you happen to have a bombing run at the same time
39 would end all of our great hopes. And so you may be
40 needing to talk to them about that, too.

41

42 MR. GARDNER: Point well taken.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other comments. Go
45 ahead.

46

47 MR. WILDE: You were talking about a moose
48 or caribou only for 20, would you do the same thing for
49 25(C)?

00224

1 MR. GARDNER: Well, I asked Don Young first
2 about that, you know, he's the area biologist that deals
3 more with you. And I think, and again, I think the Central
4 Advisory Committee should be watching this fairly closely,
5 and also this Council, is the Fortymile Herd, at least, the
6 past X number of years and who wants to keep predicting a
7 caribou herd, but if you kind of looked at even the '60s --
8 '50s and '60s use of the Steese Highway area and then this
9 last three or four of years, the herd's over there in
10 August. And that's kind of the concentration period and
11 then they kind of start drifting to the east after that,
12 and so the kind of idea we had is that let's watch it this
13 first year and because what will happen is most of the
14 caribou hunting will be pre-moose hunting and then you'll
15 have the separation just because of how the herd moves.
16 Now, if that changes, as the herd gets larger and you start
17 seeing a lot more caribou staying in the Steese country and
18 the highlands there, I mean it's great habitat, then, yeah,
19 you might have to consider it.

20
21 MR. WILDE: How are you going to -- are you
22 going to put a check station at Tetlin or something?

23
24 MR. GARDNER: Oh, for the harvest?

25
26 MR. WILDE: For the traffic going in -- so
27 would they declare what they're going to hunt?

28
29 MR. GARDNER: Well, we were actually going
30 to keep it as a registration permit the first two years of
31 this liberalized harvest. And so we've kind of designed a
32 permit already that will be designed, you know, and they're
33 going to have to come into the office or we're going to
34 have a couple other places where they can get them so that
35 the hunters aren't being totally, you know, kind of
36 inhibited by this. But they're going to have to come in
37 and they're going to have to say right then, moose or
38 caribou and then we're going to write the caribou tag
39 number on the back of their license just like it was a
40 regular caribou tag and then we snap that moose one right
41 off. I mean they won't even be carrying a moose permit.

42
43 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, so you'll
44 confiscate their moose harvest ticket if they've got one,
45 is that what you're saying?

46
47 MR. GARDNER: 20 will have its own moose
48 harvest ticket.

49

MR. FLEENER: Okay.

00225

1 MR. GARDNER: So they can still have a
2 green one, you know, if they want to go hunt 13 or wherever
3 else.

4
5 MR. FLEENER: Okay.
6

7 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Craig, I think we discussed
8 this a bit here and I indicated several things. We have to
9 write a proposal, just to give you a little information, it
10 will come out like the State system and we'll be actually
11 dealing with whatever the proposal is as a Council at our
12 spring meeting. Now, I think I indicated to you that there
13 were some things that I personally would like to see this
14 Council would have to decide on those. Would you like to
15 give your reactions?
16

17 MR. GARDNER: Well, you know, I'm always,
18 you know, not shy to give my reactions I guess. But maybe
19 for everybody's benefit why don't you kind of just put your
20 ideas out first and see me jump.
21

22 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay, let's just take them
23 one at a time. First I want to keep this hunt just as
24 simple as possible. I would like to have the geographic
25 area defined and have a number set for the hunt and have a
26 permit system -- Federal permit available for the rural
27 subsistence hunters.
28

29 MR. GARDNER: That's a good one to start
30 with. And I agree with that. I think simplicity is best.
31 And actually I thought it was real interesting you said
32 that you envisioned a separate permit as a simpler or a
33 better system. I'll argue more from -- and Kevin Fox is
34 here, he was actually nice enough to give out permits for
35 us at the Eagle store from Eagle and I'll speak mainly from
36 the southern 20(E) side, and correct me, Jim, I'll speak a
37 little bit for Central.
38

39 For the joint State and Federal permit, I
40 think this has been an incredibly success story for the
41 subsistence user because it's one permit. They don't have
42 to go to the State and get a separate registration permit.
43 They don't have to go to BLM or wherever, Park Service, to
44 get their Federal permit, they only have to go in one place
45 one time. And actually it's been much simpler for
46 everybody. Like I say when we liberalize it next year
47 we're also going to make it much easier for people to get
48 permits. You before just to kind of slow the harvest down
49 we kind of made it, you know, certain time periods and

50 fewer places. We're going to take that restriction off.

00226

1 You know, they're going to be able to get permits to hunt
2 the Steese in Fairbanks next year. They're going to be
3 getting permits to hunt the Steese and Taylor out of Delta
4 next year. So for simplicity and also for a kind of, I'd
5 say, my own selfish side, to get the data back, you know,
6 for harvest data, it's much simpler if there's only one
7 permit. It's not being sent to, you know, Ruth in
8 Fairbanks or to me in Tok, it's just being sent to one
9 place so both Ruth and I will get a count of the harvest
10 much quicker. And also again, the hunter doesn't have to
11 think about have I sent my BLM permit in, have I sent my
12 State permit, no, they just send one permit. So actually
13 for simplicity, and it's worked, I think, the last five
14 years, and I think hunters have really appreciate it, is
15 that there's one permit.

16
17 And the one mistake that was made and Jim
18 pointed it out and I appreciate it, last year, is that
19 Sandy didn't issue permits for that earlier season, well,
20 what happened is and you guys can look back, but actually
21 one year the Federal books had the season wrong and they
22 didn't list the 25(C) season, the Federal season. And what
23 Sandy was doing was just trying to keep people from
24 breaking the law, she didn't see a season so she didn't
25 issue. But actually the permits are in Sandy's hands by
26 the 12th of November. I mean they're actually available
27 and she can hand them out and she understand that now.

28
29 But anyway, let's start with that one.

30
31 MR. WILDE: Well, I'd like to take back my
32 earlier deal about issuing the dual permits. This sounds
33 much simpler, if it will work. Let's try it for a year and
34 hope it works.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Now, I guess the question
37 involved would be you're going to have separate
38 regulations. You know, we're not going to line up with the
39 State hunt necessarily and if we're doing different things
40 then what?

41
42 MR. GARDNER: And Ruth can add to it, if
43 you remember, the permit we've had the last five years and
44 it especially was appropriate for the 25(C) permit and the
45 20(E) permit that was on the back, it said are you a
46 Federally eligible subsistence user, basically yes/no, and
47 that was checked. And what that did was basically put you
48 under a different set of regulations which were listed on
49 the back and also when the hunters came in we explained it.

00227

1 You know, like last year I closed the
2 Taylor Highway for the first 50 miles for a number of
3 reasons, but the Federal season continued and so they knew
4 that when they got their permit and also the protection
5 officers on both the Federal and the State side knew that.
6 You know, they could just look at the permit, we're
7 Federally eligible, we can hunt anywhere on the Taylor
8 Highway.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Go ahead, Ruth.

11

12 MS. GRONQUIST: I was just going to make
13 one point about the issue of the permits and that is that
14 we don't have vendor. The Federal government doesn't have
15 vendors so we don't have somebody in Central when store
16 hours are open who is issuing permits. Just a piece of
17 information regarding how much better it has worked to have
18 just one permit.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOOD: How do you go about
21 determining whether or not an individual is a rural
22 resident?

23

24 MR. GARDNER: You know, it's definitely
25 very easy when we had just a few places, you know, like
26 Sandy up in Central and two places in Eagle. Basically in
27 a lot of places we knew the people, you know, for one, but
28 two, they have to have a driver's license or some kind of
29 an idea and a hunting license to get a permit. You know,
30 so if their driver's license said they weren't from Delta,
31 Tok, Tetlin, Northway, Eagle, Central, well, that raises a
32 flag right there and now all of a sudden they're the ones
33 that have to convince us that they are Federally eligible
34 persons.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Now, what the Federal
37 permit generally requires is one more additional piece of
38 information, something with your physical address on it.
39 So you might consider that as well, and that could be
40 something like your phone bill. Your driver's license,
41 generally -- it can have just a box number on it. But your
42 phone bill, for instance, would have a physical address on
43 it. And then you need just some means of making sure that
44 that physical address is within these geographic areas that
45 they've indicated.

46

47 MR. FLEENER: You want to come up to the
48 microphone.

49

TROOPER HILDEBRAND: Hi, I'm Trooper

00228

1 Hildebrand, Fish and Wildlife protection. When they make
2 an application for the permit, the phone numbers are listed
3 on the permit, and through that we are able to get their
4 physical address.

5
6 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I might suggest then that
7 you tell that to the Fish and Wildlife Service in Glenallen
8 and then maybe they'll use that.

9
10 TROOPER HILDEBRAND: That's the information
11 that they take up in Central where they issues permits --
12 where Sandy issues the permits.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you. I think that's
15 a very good idea and I wish BLM would utilize that on a
16 more general scale.

17
18 MR. GARDNER: Okay, your next issue, Nat.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay. How many caribou
21 should a rural resident take? Should he have a permit for
22 one or two or three or.....

23
24 MR. GARDNER: Okay. I mean this definitely
25 is the crux I guess. Now, when the harvest was reduced
26 five years ago, you know, the Federal law could not be
27 broken and you know, basically that -- basically there had
28 to be some Federal preference and then there was a minimum
29 basically, Federal take
30 to meet subsistence needs. Now, it could be argued that we
31 went way below that. And basically the way it was
32 determined was we used the five years prior to the harvest
33 reduction and we looked at basically how many caribou the
34 different communities were taken. And so that's how we
35 basically came out with one of the numbers. The other one
36 is the State went through, you know, kind of a C&T
37 designation, they also ID'd a certain number. Now, of
38 course the State numbers would be different than the
39 Federal number because every State resident is subsistence,
40 you know, so basically what we had to do then is go into
41 meet the Federal subsistence law and actually we went to
42 the Board in '95 or '94 to do that, and so we came up with
43 this 150. Now, does that meet subsistence needs? Well,
44 no, you know, it met what they were taking. It probably
45 met subsistence take. Now, should you take that -- and
46 this first year that we throw open the harvest, should that
47 mean that we should go to a multiple caribou bag limit or
48 is there better ways to meet subsistence users.

49

Now, I'll kind of go my selfish way first

00229

1 and present a case. I would much rather see, because we've
2 kind of agreed to through a long process, you know, through
3 the team and through the advisory committees and also
4 through this Council last year, a harvest plan, that came
5 up with a harvest quota and how it was going to be taken,
6 you know, for the next five years but definitely for the
7 next two before it gets kind of evaluated. If you're going
8 to meet kind of the Federal kind of mandates of subsistence
9 preference, you know, there's a couple ways you can do it.
10 And also how would you benefit the communities. Well, I
11 kind of broke them out. And again, argue with me, Jim, but
12 the way I look at it, Circle they get benefits early in the
13 season, that's when the herd's there -- I mean Central and
14 then they kind of leave, so adding more days to a September
15 season isn't going to really benefit Central all that much
16 because the caribou aren't there in any big numbers. Now,
17 adding days on to a winter season, especially earlier in
18 the winter probably does benefit Central because those
19 caribou do winter over in Birch Creek side and over there.
20 Now, the Eagle, adding days or adding limit probably isn't
21 going to benefit them too much with Eagle needs because
22 they need a bigger quota and they need the season to get to
23 September 30th because that's when the caribou are there,
24 okay. Now, the southern 20(E), again Northway over to
25 Delta, what they need is basically a full fall season and a
26 longer winter season, especially again on the earlier side
27 or I guess you could say on the later side. And so if --
28 and the way the season is right now, the only preference, I
29 guess, the Feds can see is a 15 longer day winter season
30 which definitely benefits the southern 20(E) portion and
31 Central, I'd say. It doesn't do anything for Eagle. But
32 like I said, I'm not so sure you can do anything for Eagle
33 other than having a whole bunch of caribou on State land,
34 actually, because that's pretty much where they do all
35 their hunting.

36
37 So I think kind of the negotiations that
38 have happened up to the State, I would hate to see a
39 multiple caribou bag limit right off the bat. Not that it
40 can't biologically be done. I think more of it is because
41 it hasn't really been discussed yet and that people are
42 pretty much looking at we're going to go into this with the
43 one caribou bag limit, let's see how it goes. Now, if this
44 -- like you said, the Council can put out any proposal it
45 wants, and me, Ruth and others in this room will cringe but
46 if I would see a change in what's being offered right now
47 as somebody from the -- the Fortymile team and also the
48 State, I'd much rather see an extension of the season and
49 I'd much rather see if there's an extension of the season,

50 you know, put a few weeks, days on the early winter season

00230

1 because it's going to benefit the greatest number of people
2 and give them an opportunity to hunt a growing herd. But
3 it'll still be managed under the same quota system under
4 the State.

5

6 You know, I mean it won't affect the State
7 program at all is what I'm saying. I mean we'd still be
8 looking at 850 caribou. If more caribou got taken on the
9 Federal season, which they're going to be taken anyway,
10 that's no big deal, it's still going to be subtracted off.

11

12 So I guess that's the kind of way I would
13 lean. I'd actually like to lean -- the first year, just
14 keep it the way it is. But like you said, you guys can do
15 what you want.

16

17 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have a question.
18 The last couple years, the number of caribou taken has been
19 right up there with the limit, right, that's correct, and
20 you suppose that that's going to happen this next year with
21 the higher numbers as well, that it will be taken pretty
22 quickly?

23

24 MR. GARDNER: I actually think the season's
25 will go to term. I think the quota will probably be taken,
26 or close to it. I think people are going to respond to it
27 pretty fast especially because the Nelchina herd's hurting
28 so poorly. But I think actually the season's are going to
29 pretty much go to term because they are broken out in three
30 different permits.

31

32 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, then how do you
33 see a multiple caribou bag limit as being negative, if you
34 think it's going to go to term now and we've been managing
35 before based on the shorter number, it being taken right
36 away and then closing it down pretty quickly, how do you
37 see having a multiple bag limit in some places, really
38 limited places because there's not that much Federal land?
39 How do you see that as being a negative?

40

41 MR. GARDNER: Probably the only place I can
42 see the negative is if we're talking about harvest and
43 response and I don't know how quick it would happen on the
44 Central side but since every rural residence is subsistence
45 on the Central end and that's where the caribou are going
46 to be the easiest because they're early, if you actually
47 had a multiple caribou bag limit you could actually push
48 that quota probably pretty quickly. I mean if a lot of
49 people jumped on it. I'm not so sure they would, but they

50 could.

00231

1 On the 20(E) side, which is about the only
2 other Federal land you'd be seeing, it has happened in the
3 past. Back, I think like in '87 there was actually a ton
4 of caribou and in '92 it happened, a bunch of caribou on
5 Federal land and the number of Federal subsistence users
6 that jumped on the harvest actually took the quota over by
7 an appreciable amount and Ruth could probably remember the
8 numbers, but I remember '92 it shot it out of the water.
9 So, no, the caribou can lend themselves to be vulnerable to
10 harvest and especially to people that are quite serious in
11 getting them.

12
13 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, so how do you
14 think that -- you say that you don't think it will be
15 affected much if there's just a one caribou bag limit but
16 if we up it to two then you see a big stream of people
17 going there, is that just because there's the opportunity
18 for one more caribou that there's going to be that many
19 more people going out there?

20
21 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, I think multiple bag
22 limits always brings people in there more than just -- see
23 it as an opportunity, because they're still going to pick a
24 time period that they can go.

25
26 MR. FLEENER: But you really do think then
27 that there's going to be a lot more people just for one
28 additional caribou?

29
30 MR. GARDNER: It could be. I guess that's
31 not the road I was trying to get down. Like I said, I
32 actually don't even have a problem with a multiple caribou
33 bag limit down the road. What I'm actually more looking
34 forward to the first year or two is kind of go with the
35 plan that's kind of been designed and then, of course, the
36 quota's going to keep growing and basically it's going to
37 become a mute point, you know. And it's easily going to be
38 able to handle it.

39
40 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, how do you think
41 that the subsistence -- the Federal permit holders
42 overwhelm the harvest in 20(E) when there's so little
43 Federal land over there where the caribou could be reached?
44 It just doesn't seem like there's enough Federal land for
45 the Federal permit holders to overwhelm the hunt.

46
47 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, in 20(E), it won't
48 happen in the fall, it just won't happen. The herd won't
49 be on Federal land other than on Yukon-Charley and then of

50 course Yukon-Charley access is so difficult for most

00232

1 people. No, if there's a chance that 20(E), it's going to
2 be in the winter season and that's probably when it's going
3 to be.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOOD: One question for you,
6 Craig, here, would you talk a little bit about the
7 Canadians in this and then talk about what you could do
8 with a healthy herd as far as a harvest for a healthy herd
9 and why we are keeping this harvest so low?

10

11 MR. GARDNER: Okay. Of course the overall
12 riding goal of this plan and even is under the first year
13 of the harvest plan is to keep this herd increasing and
14 increasing by a substantial amount. I mean we're still
15 looking at 10 percent growth rate. And the whole reason
16 for it is, of course, the whole theory is that you get a
17 caribou herd expanding and it's going to start using more
18 turf and what we're hoping it's going to start doing, of
19 course, is get over into the Yukon and start filling in
20 traditional range that it's always been. I mean for 100
21 years that we know of it's been into Central Yukon. And
22 so, you know, that's definitely the goal. And they also
23 have a harvest plan that they're working on right now
24 through the First Nations. In fact, the First Nations are
25 doing pretty much, I think almost 100 percent of it because
26 it's going onto First Nation land first. And so they're
27 working on theirs. They're going to go on -- well,
28 actually a very reduced harvest. But the whole idea is if
29 we get this herd, you know, up in even in the 50, 60,
30 70,000 animal range, which this herd could easily reach and
31 easily can be supported, yeah, we're going to talk about
32 harvest that, you know, pales the Nelchina and even starts
33 rivaling what the Porcupine is being harvested at, from
34 both the Yukon and Alaska side. So you know, definitely if
35 this herd can grow to what we think it can -- the
36 potential, yeah, you know, it used to be the size of the
37 Western Arctic and they're taking 25,000 caribou a year.
38 You know, so definitely there's potential if we can keep
39 this herd growing is much greater in the future.

40

41 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, then I wonder what
42 we need to do here as a Council, do we need to talk a
43 little bit more about -- I know that there was interest in
44 two caribou bag limit, is there still some interest in that
45 or.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN GOOD: You know, I'm looking at
48 our time here and maybe we should set up a committee. I
49 think that -- Jim, would you be willing to serve on such a

50 thing, how about yourself Craig, and I would.

00233

1 MR. WILDE: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 MR. FLEENER: (Nods affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Would you be willing to
6 work with us, and Pete, I think we could take it away from
7 the table.

8

9 MR. DeMATTEO: (Nods affirmatively)

10

11 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I think we're -- we've got
12 a lot of the ideas out here but we need to come up with a
13 proposal and we need to do rather shortly but we can't
14 afford anymore time during this meeting. Does anybody have
15 any other comments at this point? Ruth.

16

17 MS. GRONQUIST: You all may be aware, too
18 -- or excuse me, Mr. Chairman, you may all be aware as well
19 that in 25(C) for Fortymile caribou, all rural residents of
20 the state of Alaska have the opportunity to -- under their
21 C&T determination to hunt there. So that might be another
22 factor to roll into a higher than one caribou bag limit.
23 And I guess if you're going to put together a panel,
24 committee, whatever to work on a regulation, since we're
25 major land owners that -- we'd like to be involved.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We've ruled out BLM.
28 Besides BLM doesn't own the land, we do.

29

30 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, that's right.

31

32 MS. GRONQUIST: I thought I said managed
33 the land.

34

35 MR. FLEENER: No, you didn't.

36

37 MS. GRONQUIST: Strike that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We'll consider it. Let's
40 take a quick break here and then maybe we can speed up the
41 rest of the agenda. And we apologize for taking so much
42 time here on the Fortymile. Vince, do you have something
43 right away?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: When you come back, you got
46 to form that committee and then you're going to need to set
47 a date because proposals are due by October 27th, so that's
48 the only thing.

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: Right.

00234

1 (Off record)

2 (On record)

3

4 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We're reconvening this
5 meeting. We've got a long ways to go in a short time so if
6 we could get started.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, when we left
9 off we needed to form who's going to be on this committee
10 and since the deadline is approaching us we need to look at
11 potential dates and then from there, Donald and others will
12 start working to get that accomplished.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Craig, Jim and I will be on
15 the committee from the Council, Craig Gardner will -- has
16 volunteered and I believe Pete will work with all of us and
17 shepherd us through. Pete.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: And you also meant Ruth
20 Gronquist or did I miss something?

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOOD: No, we left Ruth out. But
23 we may bring her in later, we'll see. Yeah, Pete you were
24 willing?

25

26 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I have to
27 confess, I wasn't paying attention and I missed the
28 question.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We're working on a proposal
33 for the Fortymile Caribou Herd and I volunteered you to
34 help us to write something.

35

36 MR. DeMATTEO: Absolutely.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOOD: This will have to be done
39 telephonically. If, perhaps, Pete and I might try to
40 contact everybody and come up with a way to get this thing
41 going. I talked to Craig Gardner, he won't be able to stay
42 over tonight because he has to leave before too much longer
43 here. Did you have anything else to give us, Craig, or are
44 you wrapped up?

45

46 MR. GARDNER: No, I'm pretty much done
47 unless you have any questions on the moose seasons or the
48 lynx season.

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: I think we're okay. Thank

00235

1 you Craig.

2

3 MR. GARDNER: You're welcome.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Next item on the agenda.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Correct, Mr. Chairman. That
8 gets us out of the wildlife proposal, past and future. And
9 it gets us into, let's just call it at this time, reports,
10 okay, usually we divide it out into Regional Council
11 reports and then we go to agency reports. So right at this
12 time, the past Chair is not present here so there's really
13 not a Chair's report. So if there are any reports from
14 Council members, many of you are members on advisory
15 committees, tribal village council meetings, et cetera,
16 this would be your opportunity to do that and then we'll go
17 right into agency reports.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Is there anyone that has a
20 report to give us at this time? Gerald.

21

22 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'd just
23 like to state that I'm on the Tanana/Rampart Advisory
24 Committee plus all the -- a lot of deals around here. I'm
25 very involved. And when I first started on this Council I
26 felt like I could do everything, but after being on it for
27 awhile, it's just that you have to be really involved to
28 get anything done. It's just how it's been. I'm been very
29 much sticking up for subsistence rights and I really don't
30 know how to put this but I believe as a Council member,
31 that we let these people down in this region for fish.
32 Because subsistence is a priority and I just want to bring
33 that out.

34

35 Another thing, anything that will help
36 people understand how two agencies, State and Federal could
37 work together, is that I sit on both this Council and the
38 Tanana/Rampart/Manley so pretty much covers this area. And
39 I also want to state that there's hardly any Federal lands
40 so I pretty much stick up for my counterparts around here.

41

42 One more thing is that I'm very involved in
43 other issues with the Tribal council, too, so all these,
44 you can pretty much ask me anything from around here.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Anyone else have any
47 comments.

48

49 MR. JAMES: I sit on the Yukon Flats

50 Advisory Council as an alternate. But there's a few issues

00236

1 that came up on there last year. I don't know when we're
2 having our next meeting there but I was hoping -- I don't
3 know who, maybe Terry Haynes there, you're from the State
4 there, on the Chalkyitsik harvest data, their new -- what
5 do we call it, Craig, that Chalkyitsik new.....

6

7 MR. FLEENER: The hunt?

8

9 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

10

11 MR. FLEENER: What the heck do they call
12 it. It's a village quota hunt for moose.

13

14 MR. JAMES: Yeah, the village quota hunt
15 there. I have a few concerns on how they went about
16 designating the area there. Because a lot of those -- in
17 my opinion a lot of those hunters kind of shortchanged them
18 -- the people shortchanged themselves by their -- because
19 the majority of the hunt is out of the area they selected.
20 I think they needed more planning by the whole community
21 before they went ahead with that system there. And I don't
22 know, that's the kind of opening up the doors by selecting
23 that system there, they opened up -- we had a long
24 discussion on that last spring there, it opened up the
25 doors for more designated hunters -- group hunters in urban
26 areas to select a certain area within our area to go
27 hunting. And so I was opposed to that quota system there
28 because we really needed to -- you know, when you open up
29 areas to other urban people there it kind of, you know,
30 shortchanged us again, like being on the Yukon River
31 Drainage Association, agreeing to everything that they
32 want.

33

34 I guess our other concern is the muskrat
35 ecosystem. And muskrats are just appearing there and when
36 we get a letter from the Board or boss there, I guess,
37 stating that they can't do very much about it. At least
38 they should have said that at least we can target a certain
39 area and just work within that area instead of just putting
40 it off on the side again and wait another year.

41

42 I'm really opposed to management to where
43 we have to sit and wait again for another year, a couple
44 years. So that letter that they sent back there, I just
45 happened to glance through it this afternoon when I seen
46 that letter that they sent back to us, here we have to sit
47 and wait again, sit and wait again.

48

49 I guess my other concern is our subsistence

50 coordinator for the State. For the last three meetings she

00237

1 left, and I think she should be here if her title is
2 subsistence coordinator, that was my other concern there.
3 I think she should be here all through the meetings here.
4 Because in my opinion, if you're going to call yourself a
5 subsistence coordinator, you know, that means that you're
6 going to sit here and you're going to listen to all the
7 issues that are being addressed by our rural people there
8 instead of coming in and giving a presentation and then
9 have to leave again. That happened in Fort Yukon, too, so
10 I'm going to leave it at that.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other comments. Terry.

15

16 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 Davey, when you're talking about the State subsistence
18 coordinator, who are you talking about, a State employee?

19

20 MR. JAMES: Yeah, Polly Wheeler.

21

22 MR. HAYNES: Okay. When it comes to
23 representing the Department at these Regional Council
24 meetings, we try to ensure that we have staff from
25 different divisions available to discuss issues. In the
26 case of this particular meeting, Polly and I divided up our
27 participation. She came out for a meeting yesterday, the
28 Advisory Committee and YRFDA meeting and I said I would
29 come out today to be here for the wildlife proposal
30 discussions. She's doing that in addition to many other
31 responsibilities, too, so we're trying to make sure we have
32 adequate representation at these meetings but we also have
33 other responsibilities to take care of.

34

35 I also can comment on your questions
36 concerning the Chalkyitsik hunt either now or in the
37 context of a very short staff report if you'd like.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I think we'll just hold
40 that until the Fish and Game reports. Is there any further
41 comments? If not it looks like we just finished the first
42 day and one day to go.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us
47 up to the section called agency reports. You have set the
48 pattern that the first one would be Native corporations.
49 So there may be -- I think Gabe has already given his

50 report but there may be others here that represent regional

00238

1 village or regional non-profits.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Is anybody else here that
4 does fit that description? I hear nobody. In that case, I
5 guess, Terry I'm going to be rather embarrassed and I
6 apologize.

7

8 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
9 like to see you embarrassed. I'm actually wearing several
10 hats today. As most of you know, I'm a member of the
11 State/Federal liaison team, and I'm here in that capacity
12 in large part because I'll be chiefly responsible for
13 tracking the wildlife proposals, Federal subsistence
14 wildlife proposals through the next cycle so I'm interested
15 in the discussions you've had today about proposals that
16 you'll be developing or others have developed to cover this
17 area.

18

19 I was asked by other staff who aren't at
20 this meeting to present short reports on their behalf. Bob
21 Stephenson could not be here to do a report on the
22 Chalkyitsik community harvest permit hunt because
23 conditions are optimal for flying moose surveys and so he
24 felt it was important this week to be flying moose surveys.
25 I'm going to hand out a short -- a little summary of the
26 Chalkyitsik permit hunt program that will give you some
27 background information. Maybe George could circulate
28 those. But Bob asked me to present just a few points about
29 that program.

30

31 As you know it's the first time we've tried
32 to set up a community harvest permit program like this in a
33 community and so we're very much in the learning stage and
34 this is the first year that it's been in place. What I've
35 handed out is the application for these -- for this permit
36 hunt, which includes the bottom of the first page, some key
37 points about the program. I won't go through the details
38 there but it does describe what's required to participate
39 in the hunt, the paperwork that's required, where the
40 permits are available and so forth. Bob Stephenson
41 indicated to me that as this is the first year of that
42 program, it's taken awhile for the community to become
43 familiar with the concept of this type of hunt and the
44 differences that have resulted from the existing
45 regulations. It's been his view that the community has
46 become interested, more interested in the idea as time has
47 gone on. And that some people are very excited about how
48 this does provide additional opportunities for local
49 residents to hunt. There is a local hunt administrator

50 that is there to issue the permits and keep track of

00239

1 things.

2

3 About 12 people signed up for the community
4 harvest permits this fall and a few moose were taken under
5 the permit. An additional eight residents of Chalkyitsik
6 obtained the regular harvest tickets for the moose hunt in
7 that area. In most cases because the hunt administrator
8 was not available when they were ready to go hunting and
9 therefore they could not get all the details they needed
10 about the community harvest permit or because they
11 preferred to just hold off and see how the hunt went this
12 year before they participated in it themselves. I think
13 one of the key things that was learned about this year's
14 experience is that you have to have good information out to
15 the community far ahead of time, you can't wait until right
16 before the season, obviously, to educate people and expect
17 them to enthusiastically endorse what you're doing. So I
18 have the sense that Bob Stephenson would plan to spend more
19 time with the hunt administrator next year, earlier in the
20 year to kind of set up the program for that season.

21

22 As for one of the questions that Davey
23 raised about the boundaries of the hunt area, Bob didn't
24 indicate that as an issue that he's aware of at this point.
25 I guess if there are concerns about the boundaries maybe
26 being inappropriate, then that's something that the
27 Advisory Committee or people in Chalkyitsik might want to
28 bring up because as with any other hunt, hunting
29 regulation, there is the opportunity to make revisions and
30 to fine-tune it if something can be done to make it work
31 better.

32

33 That's just a very general look at that
34 Chalkyitsik hunt. I can try to answer questions if anyone
35 has any.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Are there any questions?

38

39 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I don't have a
40 question but I do have a couple of statements, and I don't
41 think these need any response but just some concerns that
42 I've heard along the way. Maybe people's opinions are
43 starting to change after having been involved, but some of
44 the people that I talked to are sort of not too happy about
45 the way this went because the whole idea of creating a
46 quota system and Bob and I have talked about this and Terry
47 and I have talked about it, but I just wanted to share it
48 here, the whole idea about this was to have less paperwork
49 for people to worry about and to create more traditionally

50 oriented hunting opportunities which meant you go hunting

00240

1 when you think you need a moose, not go hunting within a
2 short time frame that's set aside by someone from Anchorage
3 or whatever. So the whole thing was supposed to be
4 designed to have less paperwork and create more
5 opportunities that fit the subsistence lifestyle. And it
6 turned out that the paperwork was the same -- just about
7 the same amount of paperwork and the only real oppor -- I
8 guess there were two additional opportunities created and
9 one of them was that you can shoot a moose and go back and
10 get another permit and shoot another permit and go back and
11 get another permit, so that was one of the benefits, where,
12 you know, one guy could legally go shoot five moose, which
13 is how things traditionally happen in a lot of the
14 communities. So that was one of the benefits. And another
15 benefit is I think the season was a little bit longer, I
16 can't remember the season now. But part of the problem
17 here was people still have to do paperwork, you know, you
18 got to get everybody's name in a big -- in a group hunt so
19 -- I won't belabor the point.

20
21 I just wanted to say that this didn't turn
22 out to be exactly what people were wanting because people
23 wanted less paperwork and it really didn't work out that
24 way. But there were a few benefits as well.

25
26 Thanks, Terry.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other comments. I
29 imagine you'll have a final summary for us at our next
30 meeting? This isn't your final wrap up, did you say you'd
31 have more?

32
33 MR. HAYNES: I would expect that Bob
34 Stephenson would have more -- be able to provide more
35 details about the actual hunter success and so forth at
36 your next meeting.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay, thank you.

39
40 MR. JAMES: I have one question here on
41 this community quota hunt there. When this process was
42 being implemented, I was very -- you know, it was very
43 unfortunate that they never came to CATG Natural Resource
44 Department to get their input or because a majority -- 80
45 percent of their moose take was outside the area that is
46 selected, you know. And there was not very much input from
47 other people, you know, and I was telling a couple of those
48 hunters coming down, you know, 90 percent of your moose is
49 caught at the mouth of the Black River, from now on you

50 can't get no more moose down there if you apply for this

00241

1 community quota hunt, you know. The majority of the moose
2 that you get in a certain area up there, you guys left out
3 and half of them don't go up Porcupine, three-fourths of
4 them never go up Porcupine. Only the person that selected
5 that area had an airplane, he goes up there.

6

7 So in other words, you guys cut yourselves
8 in the foot again without no good detailed planning and
9 without looking at data.

10

11 Now, in the future those hunters that goes
12 -- the rural hunters that go and hunt up in the Porcupine
13 for the last 15 years with boats, there's 20 of them. You
14 opened up the doors for them to hunt up in the area, the
15 Porcupine area because they hunt up there for the last 20
16 years.

17

18 And I've been trying to caution these
19 people, when you do any planning that you look at all
20 sides, sit down and really do your homework, you know.
21 Otherwise, like the Yukon River Drainage Association, we
22 shot our own selves in the foot and we shut ourselves off
23 because we want to be subsistence users and we don't
24 implement our government-to-government relationship under
25 the Department of the Interior, it's a tribal sovereignty
26 government, we never even implemented that yet. We talk
27 about it.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you, Terry.

32

33 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, if I could, Dave
34 Andersen from the Subsistence Division also asked me to
35 present a short report. As some of you know, Dave has kind
36 of spear-headed the big game harvest survey that our
37 division has conducted principally in Kuskokwim River,
38 middle Yukon area villages for several years now. Tanana
39 is one of the communities that was surveyed this year along
40 with Kaltag, Nulato, Galena, Ruby, Huslia, Alatna,
41 Allakaket, Bettles and Evansville, and this has been a real
42 important project for getting current harvest information
43 on big game animals and getting it for successive years.
44 And because of some of the management issues that have come
45 up in the Kuskokwim River area and in the middle Yukon,
46 this has been very important to have on hand for looking at
47 regulatory issues.

48

49 I think one of the important factors about

50 this survey is that it's shown that less than half the

00242

1 harvest that's typically taken by these communities is
2 being recorded in our harvest ticket system so it supports
3 what we've known for a long time, that in order to get
4 accurate harvest reporting in rural areas, you can't rely
5 on the State harvest ticket system or permit system, that
6 you have to get out and talk to people, you've got to have
7 some interaction with them to get those details. The
8 information that Dave the interviewers that he hired in
9 each of those communities has gathered, you know, gets
10 information on where they harvested animals, amount of time
11 spent hunting and some of those details. It's just a very
12 short survey that is designed to get us management
13 information but not be a burden on people. We're hoping to
14 do a fifth year data collection next spring.

15

16 The Division of Subsistence is also
17 involved in conducting waterfowl surveys on the Yukon Flats
18 and in the upper Tanana region, and that project in the
19 Yukon Flats is being done in cooperation with CATG and in
20 the upper Tanana region we've worked closely with Tanana
21 Chiefs Conference, the regional office, in setting up that
22 project. I won't go into details but it's just another
23 project that we've been working on.

24

25 And I don't know if anybody provided
26 information to you, I know you have information in your
27 folders about the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
28 Council, but there is a -- their first meeting is going to
29 take place in Anchorage October 30th, 31st and November 1st
30 and I'm sure you'll be getting more details about that for
31 those of you who are interested or otherwise involved.

32

33 The only other thing, I guess, if Polly
34 Wheeler talked to you yesterday, she did indicate that she,
35 at least, temporarily is the new leader of our
36 State/Federal liaison team having replaced Elizabeth
37 Andrews. So with her in the Fairbanks office, she and I
38 will kind of be working closely on issues and we'll do our
39 best to see that the State liaison team, you know, works as
40 closely as we can with the Council. We have a special
41 interest, obviously, with the Western and Interior Councils
42 being part of the Interior ourselves. So we'll continue to
43 work with you the best we can.

44

45 Thank you for the chance to give these
46 short reports.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, thank you, Terry.
49 And thank you for the short part of it, too. I understand

50 Yukon Flats is running on a time constraint, maybe if we

00243

1 could take them next.

2

3 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
4 name is Greg McClellan and I'm the Subsistence Coordinator
5 for both the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge and
6 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. George is handing out
7 reports that I mailed to each of the Council members, these
8 may be things you already received. And then I'd like for
9 Paul to introduce himself.

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Paul Williams is my name.
12 As you know I'm working for the Yukon Flats National
13 Wildlife Refuge as a Refuge information technician. After
14 next year I'm going to retire so I'm a short-timer. Other
15 than that, I've really enjoyed my work working for the Fish
16 and Wildlife Service up to this point.

17

18 MR. McCLELLAN: Then I guess as far as the
19 reports for both the Yukon Flats and Arctic, in the sense
20 of saving time, I won't really go over anything in there
21 but if there's any questions that you have about any of the
22 topics in either of the reports, either myself or Paul
23 would be happy to try to answer them.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I'd like to make a comment
26 here, I guess we're really lucky that you missed the
27 deadline on the book because your material is the only
28 material that we got on time.

29

30 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31

32 MR. JAMES: Craig, at our next meeting in
33 February, is there a possibility that you can provide us
34 information on the hunting and the guiding up in the Arctic
35 National Wildlife Refuge?

36

37 MR. McCLELLAN: Certainly. Would you
38 like.....

39

40 MR. JAMES: The locations, yeah.

41

42 MR. McCLELLAN:the list of the guides
43 for the Arctic Refuge and what they've harvested for the
44 last couple of years, something like that, a summary?

45

46 MR. JAMES: Yeah, and the locations, their
47 camps.

48

49 MR. McCLELLAN: Okay. I can do that, yeah.

00244

1 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other comments. It
2 looks like you also win the award for brevity.

3
4 MR. FLEENER: Actually, Mr. Chair, I do
5 have one comment. I know you guys hold this annual, some
6 sort of pow-pow in Fairbanks, what's that called, the
7 annual sort of refuge day, I don't.....

8
9 MR. McCLELLAN: National Wildlife Refuge
10 Week.

11
12 MR. FLEENER: Okay, that's it, I couldn't
13 remember what it was called. Well, there's been some --
14 quite a few complaints from the villages in the Flats that
15 you guys hold your Wildlife Refuge Week, you know, 160
16 miles outside of the Refuge. And I don't know if you do it
17 for each of the Refuges that you represent but the two
18 Refuges that CATG is within has heard complaints from
19 basically all the communities that you guys should be
20 spending quite a bit more time there and probably holding
21 something like what you do in Fairbanks in our communities.
22 We realize that that's a population center but those people
23 don't live in the Yukon Flats and we think that there
24 should be more done in the Yukon Flats. And that's been a
25 complaint that I've heard a number of times, and I don't
26 know if Davey's heard the complaint but I certainly have.

27
28 MR. McCLELLAN: Mr. Chairman, that's a
29 point well taken and I'll take it back to our folks, and,
30 yeah, we do need to do a better job on that.

31
32 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, yeah, it goes back
33 to the whole idea of the Refuge Staff being completely
34 separated from the Refuge, and even worse than that is the
35 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Staff who's hundreds and
36 hundreds of miles away from the Refuge. And the minimal
37 amount of time spent there, we would like to see more staff
38 located in the rural communities where the Refuge is and
39 there's still a lot of interest in having a Refuge office
40 in Fort Yukon, perhaps, since it's a hub, and perhaps
41 Arctic Village, since it's one of the large communities for
42 ANWR or at least some community in the Arctic National
43 Wildlife Refuge, but there's still an awful lot of concern
44 that too much emphasis is placed outside of the Refuge and
45 not enough inside of the Refuge to the people who depend
46 nearly 100 percent of their lives on what they can make out
47 of the Refuges.

48
49 Thank you.

00245

1 MR. JAMES: You mentioned last winter that
2 Yukon Flats and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was in the
3 process of retaining another RIT position, where are you
4 guys on that at this point?

5
6 MR. McCLELLAN: I guess with the Arctic
7 National Wildlife Refuge, they hired a person, Joanne
8 Gustafson, through the program and she's from the Arctic
9 Village, Old Crow area and that was the direction that the
10 Arctic Refuge wanted to pursue with going through her with
11 trying to get somebody locally on board. As far as the
12 Yukon Flats, we are -- currently it's my responsibility to
13 write up a position description. We are intending to
14 advertise for a second RIT on the Yukon Flats and that
15 should be coming out sometime this winter.

16
17 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have one more
18 question for Greg, what would be the possibility for any
19 future positions that you guys get, to have those people
20 situated in the communities and doing more work within the
21 communities, but not only just being employees of the
22 Refuge but actually working more as liaisons in a type of
23 liaison position perhaps, for example, in the Fort Yukon,
24 CATG office or the Native Village of Fort Yukon Natural
25 Resource Office, to work in those communities in assisting
26 them in the projects that they're currently undertaking in
27 coordination with Yukon Flats Refuge? Of course this goes
28 for the other Refuges you represent, but I'm just using
29 this one example.

30
31 MR. McCLELLAN: I guess the question on
32 that, meaning that there'd be a joint salary for that
33 person, that the person would get some salary from the
34 Refuge and some salary from, like in this case CATG or
35 would it be getting an employee of the Refuge but would
36 work more closely and intently with the organization?

37
38 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, since CATG doesn't
39 have a lot of money to pay for a lot of employees, I think
40 what my intent is is that it would be a Refuge employee but
41 that employee would be designated to work with the people
42 in CATG, for example, if it was to be with CATG, but to
43 work with the CATG natural resource staff and the person
44 could be used in a natural resource management capacity and
45 also in a liaison position so that we could have
46 representation going back and forth, and not -- not one
47 person there specifically to represent the will of the
48 Refuge but also to represent the needs and interests of
49 local people that are a pretty big concern.

00246

1 So if you could take that back, I know you
2 can't answer and say, yeah, we got bucks and we'll hire him
3 tomorrow, if you could take that back as a concern and
4 interest. That's been an idea that's floated around a lot.
5 I know I've talked to the Refuge manager before about it
6 and I may have talked with you, I don't recall, but it's
7 been an interest, it's been a concern, I think, that it's
8 still something we want to see. And maybe it's something
9 that you could make a report on at the next meeting so we
10 don't let it slip by the wayside which so many requests can
11 do.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. JAMES: I have one more item here.
16 It's from our former representative, Calvin Tritt, Venetie.
17 The one thing he wanted to bring up is the airplane sitting
18 up there on Chandalar River. It's been sitting up there in
19 the middle of the channel for about five years now and you
20 know if the individual from BLM, they got money through the
21 Clean Water Act for restoring and removing mining debris,
22 maybe we should go and look at that avenue as, you know,
23 funding to get that airplane out of there.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. McCLELLAN: I can check on that. I
28 guess as a response, I know the plane in the river, that's
29 something that's been brought up both to Ted Huer and
30 Richard Boss, the managers of the Yukon Flats and the
31 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And I guess one of the
32 problems is that the plane is within the stream bed of the
33 Chandalar River which is considered State land and not part
34 of either of the Refuges, so that's been part of the
35 problem. But I'll definitely take your suggestion to them
36 and see if we can't do something.

37

38 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, it seems like
39 if there's potential risk to subsistence opportunity or
40 habitat damage that that would be of grave interest to the
41 Yukon Flats Refuge and any Refuge for that matter, if there
42 was any possible pollution that was going to be happening
43 on the Refuge, whether or not it was in the neighboring
44 people's property. I mean it's only three feet away from
45 Federal property. I mean, to me, that would be a cord of
46 concern.

47

48 Let the record not that Greg is nodding

49 yes.

00247

1 Mr. Chair, I'd like to actually make a
2 motion that we -- and I don't know how to exactly phrase
3 this but that we recommend -- that this Council recommend
4 that monies be sought by the Yukon Flats Refuge or is it in
5 the Yukon Flats Refuge?

6
7 MR. McCLELLAN: Well, it's.....

8
9 MR. FLEENER: Within the boundaries of the
10 Yukon Flats Refuge?

11
12 MR. McCLELLAN: No, it's not within the
13 boundaries but it's closest to the Yukon Flats so I mean if
14 you were going to direct a motion to a Refuge, it would be
15 more appropriate for the Yukon Flats.

16
17 MR. FLEENER: Okay. We would direct the
18 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge to seek money to
19 remove this aircraft so that it doesn't damage subsistence
20 species.

21
22 MR. NICHOLIA: Second and question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOOD: The motion has been made.
25 I'm not going to restate it but I would like to see that
26 airplane out of there so I don't hear about it anymore.
27 All those in favor, please say aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Opposed same sign.

32
33 (No opposing votes)

34
35 CHAIRMAN GOOD: The motion passes.

36
37 MR. JAMES: Just for clarification on that,
38 that situation on that airplane there, it's sitting on the
39 Refuge land there because the channel changed three years
40 ago, you know, and there's a policy in there, you know,
41 where the agencies, State and Federal, never really defined
42 where the borderline is. When you designated Chandalar
43 River or any other river, you just said down the main
44 channel and the channel has changed since then and now the
45 airplane is just sitting on the Federal land.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. FLEENER: So you better get it quick

50 before it changes back.

00248

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any further questions.

4

5 MR. FLEENER: No.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, you almost made it on
8 brevity but we won't talk about it now, thanks.

9

10 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you.

11

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I didn't know
15 if Bonnie had anything else for commercial fisheries.
16 Sportfish Division did leave a handout for me to pass
17 around if you're interested on it. But I didn't know if
18 Bonnie was going to give a report. I mean we've moved
19 around on the agenda that's why I'm moving you back to make
20 sure that, you know, if she was waiting to speak, that you
21 didn't leave out that division.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Bonnie, did you want to say
24 anything further on it?

25

26 MS. BORBA: Yes, Mr. Chairman and Board. I
27 passed out earlier the season summaries for both summer
28 season chinook and summer chum and fall chum and coho just
29 for you to have the information, it's the written text and
30 the graphs of what went on this season which we've already
31 discussed it pretty much going through on the protocol on
32 what happened this season.

33

34 A couple things to touch on, escapement was
35 not made in any of the areas for chinook or summer chum,
36 were somewhere between 29 to 71 percent below the recent
37 five year average. Same thing with the fall chum, all
38 escapement projects to-date we will not meet any of our
39 escapement goals in those areas, even with the measures
40 we've taken through this season.

41

42 And if there's any questions on any of
43 those packets of information or you need anything on
44 fisheries, feel free to call me, or if you have anything
45 right away. I would also like to thank the village of
46 Tanana for putting us up for this meeting. That's all.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Thank you. Any questions.

49 Thank you, Bonnie.

00249

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that would
2 bring you up to Bureau of Land Management, if they have any
3 reports.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GOOD: And that would be Ruth.
6 Ruth never gets angry with anybody, she gets even.
7

8 MS. GRONQUIST: Mr. Chairman, I was
9 thinking for brevity sake perhaps I would pass on a report.
10 But I don't have a lot to say, one is that as you're
11 probably all aware the Fortymile Caribou Herd Management
12 Planning team is sunseting in December.
13

14 The other thing I was going to just update
15 you on, was that along with Fish and Game, we did complete
16 a census on the White Mountains Caribou Herd in July of
17 this year. It's the first one that's been done since 1992.
18 The estimates from that census show about 1,000 caribou in
19 that herd which is lower than what we expected based on
20 other methods that we've used in the past few years or Fish
21 and Game has used in the past few years to estimate that
22 herd. It looks like adult mortality and lower than normal
23 calf production or low calf production, rather, were
24 probably some of the reasons that this estimate is lower
25 than expected.

26
27 That's all I was going to update you on
28 right now.
29

30 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Ruth, is there anything
31 about predators in the area? Are predators a problem and
32 are those young calves being nabbed or are the cows simply
33 not being bred?
34

35 MS. GRONQUIST: I can't answer those
36 questions as well as perhaps Jim Harragas could who has
37 been doing this project in the White Mountains. But we
38 haven't thought that predators were a problem within the
39 White Mountains. We actually haven't done any calf
40 mortality studies there. We probably wouldn't, Fish and
41 Game might, but it is a small herd.
42

43 MR. FLEENER: And getting smaller.
44

45 MS. GRONQUIST: And maybe getting smaller.
46

47 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other comments.
48

49 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, do you know

50 if the State, or whoever would be involved in managing this

00250

1 herd is going to restrict hunting of this herd to nothing
2 since it's down to 1,000? No one's left but you.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MS. GRONQUIST: I can answer that.
7 Actually you have before you the regulation that the State
8 passed, which would include the White Mountains Caribou
9 Herd and, in fact, it's actually quite liberalized. The
10 thing to remember about the White Mountains is that it is
11 difficult to get to the caribou but it's certainly
12 something that I think everybody's going to be watching
13 very closely.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other questions. Thank
16 you, Ruth.

17

18 MS. GRONQUIST: Thank you.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us
21 up to the National Park Service, Yukon-Charley and then
22 Denali National Park, and I'm not -- I'm pretty sure
23 there's no one here from Wrangell-St. Elias.

24

25 MR. FOX: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. I'm
26 Kevin Fox from Yukon-Charley River National Preserve based
27 in Eagle. And over the last year, in November of last year
28 we conducted a moose survey along the Yukon River between
29 Circle and Eagle and came up with some stats that you may
30 find interesting. There were about a third of a moose per
31 square mile, and that is up slightly from the last moose
32 survey that we did. And there was pretty good calf/cow
33 ratio, they were up to about 25 calves per 100 cows which
34 indicates that it looked like recruitment was improving and
35 the bull/cow ratio was still pretty high. So there's hope
36 there on that front.

37

38 We hired Fred Anderson for a fisheries
39 biologist. So he'll be assisting us with the management of
40 fisheries.

41

42 The National Park Service is also involved
43 with the traditional ecological knowledge project in
44 cooperation with Eagle and Circle Tribal Councils. So
45 we're beginning that project right now to collect that
46 information. We'll be interviewing and assisting with the
47 interviews for this project over the next couple months,
48 interviewing elders in the villages there along the Yukon,
49 essentially Eagle and Circle.

00251

1 And the one other thing that we -- we
2 continue to work with the military on trying to persuade
3 them to do their military training in periods that wouldn't
4 interfere with subsistence activities. So we know that the
5 peak subsistence activities for this area is typically
6 between August 10th and September 30th so we always let the
7 military know that those are important times for our
8 subsistence users so we try to persuade them to fly a
9 little bit higher so they don't interfere with any
10 subsistence activities.

11

12 So I think I may get it for brevity.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN GOOD: You still have to deal with
17 Craig.

18

19 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, Mr. Fox, you
20 mentioned a TEK study but you didn't tell us what sort of
21 knowledge you were seeking?

22

23 MR. FOX: It was primarily for fisheries
24 but since we're doing this I kind of hate to just keep it
25 at fisheries although the fisheries is the main topic,
26 primarily salmon but we're also going to be looking at fish
27 species that are important for subsistence. And in fact,
28 it's Project No. 26 in the booklet here, so if you want to
29 take a look at it. I think it's important to try to
30 interview these elders while we still have them in our
31 villages. You know, a lot of the folks are getting up
32 there in age and we hate to lose that knowledge.

33

34 MR. FLEENER: Thank you.

35

36 MR. FOX: You're welcome.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Any other questions. And
39 you did win.

40

41 MR. FOX: Thanks.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, thank you.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Next would be Denali National
46 Park, and I believe he's going to cover -- you got a
47 pending appointment to the Subsistence Resource Commission
48 in addition to other topics.

49

MR. TWITCHELL: Good afternoon, Chair,

00252

1 Council members. I'm Hollis Twitchell with Denali National
2 Park. I have only one action item that I request of you
3 and that would be dealing with an appointment to the SRC.
4 As Vince mentioned, there is a letter that the SRC sent to
5 you on a motion passed by the Commission unanimously
6 requesting that you reconsider Paul Starr as an appointment
7 to the Denali SRC. He's been an active contributor and
8 has been attending all the meetings, certainly this last
9 year, and we, on behalf of the Park, have appreciated his
10 contribution as well so please consider him once again.

11

12 I have a couple of other items that I will
13 just brief you on, they're just informational. As
14 mentioned by Kevin that Fred Anderson is working for a
15 cluster of Parks, Gates of the Arctic, Yukon-Charley and
16 Denali, so he also represents fisheries issues in the
17 Denali area as well. This year there's two fisheries
18 projects that we're working with. One of them was the
19 Kantishna recapture fish wheel which was a copartnership
20 with ADF&G Commfish Division for the Kantishna River
21 drainage. And we did hire a local user to run and operate
22 that wheel from August 16th through October 2nd when the
23 ice flow will cause the wheel to be shut down. I don't
24 have all the biological information right now but
25 tentatively, I can let you know that that wheel monitored
26 about 350 coho and a little bit over 200 chum salmon, and
27 11 of the marked tagged fish were recovered at that
28 particular wheel. And we'll have to wait until Pete Cleary
29 comes up with an actual escapement count and population for
30 that Kantishna drainage, Toklat versus the upper Kantishna.
31 So that information should be available at your next
32 meeting.

33

34 We also flew some aerial surveys this
35 summer for king salmon. The north side was flown of the
36 Denali. There was only one tributary that had active king
37 salmon spawning in it and that was the Bear Paw for the
38 Kantishna Hills and about 60 king salmon were observed
39 spawning in there. We are just now beginning the fall chum
40 aerial surveys and that will be going on sometime in the
41 next week to two weeks. So that information will also be
42 forthcoming.

43

44 Another topic, the Park was very interested
45 in reviewing our subsistence use communities, particularly
46 Cantwell, Lake Minchumina, Nikolai and Telida, and so we've
47 started a community profile subsistence update this year
48 and we've contracted that work with the State Subsistence
49 Division to use their anthropologist. We've contracted the

50 tribal councils in Cantwell, which is the only community

00253

1 we've been in yet, got permission from them to work within
2 their community and we also hired two local people from
3 Cantwell to assist with the interviews. We'll do that same
4 process with the tribal councils in Lake Minchumina,
5 Nikolai and Telida. We'll be doing Minchumina and Telida
6 this winter so that's just beginning as well.

7
8 In closing there was a number of things
9 accomplished during the Subsistence Resource Commission
10 meetings, including finalizing the Denali Subsistence
11 Management plan. Also we're working on a subsistence
12 brochure targeting visitors to inform them more about
13 cultural and subsistence uses in the Denali area on
14 recommendations from the Subsistence Resource Commission.

15
16 Another issue that keeps raising its head
17 in the Denali area is the wolf buffer zone and was proposed
18 outside of the Denali area, to the north and east of us.
19 The SRC reviewed that proposal both in their February
20 meeting and in their August meeting and they took no action
21 in the February meeting since that proposal was all outside
22 of the Park boundary and didn't have any direct effect on
23 them. A proposal was put before them by the Alaska
24 Wildlife Alliance in their summer meeting asking for
25 voluntary closure to subsistence users within the Park
26 additions for taking wolves. The SRC listened to over four
27 hours of debate between biologists and passed a motion
28 unanimously to oppose either a voluntary closure within the
29 Park boundary and they also took a position opposing the
30 wolf closure zone outside of the Park boundary to the north
31 and east of Denali. An advisory committee was then set up
32 by the Board of Game to review this buffer zone around
33 Denali. We had Lorrie Quakenbush, the Chair at our SRC
34 meeting, she's been provided a letter with the motion so
35 the SRC -- and we've also provided that information to the
36 advisory committee that was set up by BOG to advise them at
37 the November meeting about the buffer zone.

38
39 I'm trying to keep it short and sweet.
40 Those were the main topics I think you would be interested
41 in.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We'll conduct a quick
44 little side business and get right back to you.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I got a couple of
49 questions. You said you found 60 chum salmon spawning in

50 one stream, do you -- have you done any sort of studies to

00254

1 indicate whether or not there were more traditionally -- or
2 more in the past than there are now?

3

4 MR. TWITCHELL: What I indicated was king
5 salmon, there were 60 kings spawning in the Bear Paw
6 tributary coming out of the Kantishna Hills. We'll be
7 flying the fall chum and coho surveys.....

8

9 MR. FLEENER: Well my question is still the
10 same then, for the kings that you found spawning there, 60
11 doesn't seem like much, and my question for the sake of
12 reestablishing salmon populations in places where they seem
13 to be diminishing at, have you looked at whether or not
14 there were more in the past and if these are decreased
15 number?

16

17 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes. In terms of a
18 recommendation by the SRC that we contact the elders in the
19 communities to find out more what the historic fisheries
20 were, we will be going into the communities to interview
21 elders in Nikolai, Telida and Lake Minchumina to gather
22 that information. So it's intended and it will be a
23 component of our community profile updates that I just
24 talked about.

25

26 MR. FLEENER: That's good, thank you. And
27 another thing, you mentioned the community profiles. I
28 know that we, for the last few years, many numbers of
29 years, have been working to ensure that people have had
30 recognized subsistence opportunities in Denali and in
31 Wrangell and I'm wondering if this subsistence profile
32 update is going to be used to exclude some people from
33 harvesting resources there.

34

35 MR. TWITCHELL: No. We actually view it as
36 to enhance that information. One of the problems that
37 we've had with C&T determinations all around Denali is that
38 the former community use profiles only looked at 15 to
39 maybe 20 year periods of times in terms of what that
40 community used and we felt that that was totally
41 inadequate. And so as we go back to review these and
42 update these profiles, our goal and intention is to try to
43 develop a long history of that community going back to the
44 earlier days. So that was the biggest failing that we see
45 with the State's community profile studies that were done
46 all through the '80s, is that they looked at a fairly short
47 period of time in our opinion, so we're trying to extend
48 that into the longer historic period, both pre-periods that
49 were looked at in the '80s as well as the contemporary from

50 the '80s to 2000.

00255

1 MR. FLEENER: Well, that's good, Hollis.
2 It seems like people have talked about a lot of problems in
3 the past with the National Park Service being very
4 exclusionary and if they could be more inclusive of people,
5 I think this Council would support that a lot.

6
7 One last question I have, is the Denali
8 subsistence management plan was completed, you said, are
9 there copies available? Have you sent copies to us and I
10 have I just lost mine?

11
12 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes. For several years,
13 actually it was out for public review and twice we came
14 before this Council, and we certainly will bring it back to
15 you in its final version.

16
17 MR. FLEENER: Okay, that was my question
18 then, so we haven't received the final copies yet?

19
20 MR. TWITCHELL: You haven't received the
21 final copy yet.

22
23 MR. FLEENER: Okay, thank you.

24
25 MR. TWITCHELL: They just finalized it in
26 their August meeting.

27
28 MR. FLEENER: All right.

29
30 MR. TWITCHELL: But a real significant
31 point here is, the plan is, and we might have called it a
32 final plan but it's reviewed annual by the SRC and it's
33 really a living document and so in no sense is it final.

34
35 MR. FLEENER: Okay, thanks, Hollis. And on
36 a final note, I think I'd like to make a motion to
37 reappoint Paul Starr to the Denali Subsistence Resource
38 Council for another term.

39
40 MR. NICHOLIA: Second and question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOOD: It is moved, seconded and
43 questioned to reappoint Paul Starr to the Denali SRC.
44 Discussion. Hearing none, all those in favor, please say
45 aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Opposed same sign.

00256

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GOOD: The motion carries. Now, I
4 understand you had a birthday a couple of days ago.

5

6 MR. TWITCHELL: Uh-huh, yes, yes I did.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, I have always found
9 that you were a true gentleman in every aspect of the word
10 and I guess it must pay because the age that I heard given,
11 I thought was impossible.

12

13 MR. FLEENER: He doesn't look 70, does he?

14

15 CHAIRMAN GOOD: No, not at all. So I
16 compliment you on taking such fine care of yourself and
17 you're good for another 100.

18

19 MR. TWITCHELL: Well, thank you. Is that
20 why you're going easy on me today?

21

22 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, I'm just encouraging
23 you to stick around for a hundred so maybe I can hang in
24 there for another 10 or 12.

25

26 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you. Are there any
27 more questions for me?

28

29 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Hey, you're off.

30

31 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOOD: You did a great job, as
34 always, thank you.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, that
37 brings us up to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and I'll be
38 giving you an update on the Migratory Bird Treaty and then
39 addressing the Office of Subsistence Management.

40

41 So the Migratory Bird Treaty, due to the
42 lateness of the hour, you do have a copy of it under Tab G,
43 kind of a briefing paper on it. The main thing I would
44 like to focus on that is the functions of the management
45 bodies. Remember you were asked if you would like -- which
46 model you would care for as far as the management bodies
47 addressing migratory birds, and the Regional Director
48 selected the management body, they're called, the Alaska
49 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, which consists of the

50 seven regional areas and there'll be -- the way I

00257

1 understand it, one representative from each of those
2 regional areas serving on that co-management council. And
3 there'll be 12 partner organizations to administer the
4 seven regional management bodies and Gabe talked about that
5 a little bit. But the key point is the functions of the
6 management bodies are to work towards consensus of
7 migratory bird issues, encourage partnerships, provide
8 local incentives for sustainable use and to share and
9 influence responsibility for resource management and
10 conservation.

11

12 Basically what's happening is that that
13 council is going to meet on October 30th in Anchorage and
14 they're going to discuss approval of bylaws, review and
15 discussion of operations manual, officers and things like
16 that. The key thing that you need to be aware of is that
17 in March the recommendations of that council will be
18 submitted to the Flyaway Council and to the Federal
19 Regulations Committee and the resulting regulations will be
20 published by the fall of 2001 and will become effective
21 March 10th, 2002. So I suppose since you are involved in
22 subsistence and migratory birds are part of it, you're
23 going to be interested in how this carries out. And as you
24 know, from other meetings, there is no subsistence priority
25 on migratory birds but you do have a high interest in it.

26

27 That pretty much is it. You have the full
28 briefing under Tab G. Are there any questions on the
29 Migratory Bird Treaty?

30

31 CHAIRMAN GOOD: This refers to regional
32 bodies, who are these regional bodies that make the
33 appointments?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: They'll make their own
36 appointments based on if you look at the second page. The
37 way I understand it, there'll be 12 partner organizations
38 that fit into the seven regional bodies as follows, so for
39 your area it is Tanana Chiefs.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay. I just missed that
42 on the second page here.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, any other questions on
45 Migratory Bird Treaty? If not, then I'll go on to -- we've
46 gone through a reorganization and I just wanted to bring
47 this up because it may get confusing. We used to be
48 structured by function or program, I was in one division as
49 all the coordinators and Pete and George were in another

50 division called natural resources or resources, and that

00258

1 was reorganized to be geographic, so now we're in the
2 Interior Division, and then that would be Yukon/Kuskokwim
3 Regional Council, Western Interior and Eastern Interior as
4 well as overseeing Southeast. The other remaining Councils
5 would be under the Coastal Division. So you may hear us
6 every now and then say something like the Interior Division
7 or the Coastal Division, I just want to kind of remind you
8 that we're talking about the reorganization.

9

10 The other thing under Office of Subsistence
11 Management is you have a new operations manual which Donald
12 passed out earlier. Please note the picture of the, I
13 suppose the gentlemen on the bottom of the first page here
14 and on the bottom of Page 36, you may recognize those
15 gentlemen there. But this is your working book. This is
16 the one that will answer most of your questions and provide
17 you updates and et cetera, so try to keep this -- I assume
18 you've gotten copies.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Yes, we did.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. This is the one that's
23 in a question and answer format that will help you find the
24 answer and share with others on the same issues. So it
25 will be updated periodically, this does include the
26 fisheries stuff so that's why it was mainly updated.

27

28 The last thing I wanted to discuss under
29 reorganization is, as you already know, that we have gone
30 through a reorganization and hiring new staff. I read a
31 letter into the record at Western Interior that I need to
32 read into the record at Eastern Interior and it will become
33 apparent why I'm reading this into the record.

34

35 Dear Western and Eastern Regional Council
36 members. This is a letter I've written to you and to
37 Western Interior. I'm writing this letter to share my
38 thoughts about staffing changes. The challenges before us
39 have increased and so has their complexity. In order to
40 face these challenges as a team I need to open up my heart
41 and share my thoughts. I'm using a formal letter because
42 many of you know I have a strong line between my
43 professional duty and my personal needs.

44

45 I keep my thoughts and positions on issues
46 to myself in order to remain neutral and to remain a
47 neutral conduit for information between the management and
48 users. This has not been easy as the years of working
49 together with the Regional Councils has grown and we have

50 developed friendships. I thank each of you for your

00259

1 insights into the traditional lifestyle. I also thank you
2 for years of patience as we figured out how to work
3 together.

4

5 I personally regret to inform you I will no
6 longer be the Regional Coordinator for the Eastern Interior
7 Region. It was decided to hire an additional Regional
8 Coordinator for the Yukon River because of the increased
9 workload. Accepting this change, I must admit has been
10 tough for me. I have grown comfortable, as comfortable as
11 someone can in the politically charged world of subsistence
12 management working with the Eastern Interior Regional
13 Council.

14

15 Many have asked me how I can work with such
16 radical groups, such outspoken subsistence leaders and the
17 contentious world of subsistence management. I usually
18 laugh and just say they're just drying their wings and are
19 like distance thunderstorm in your path and you ain't seen
20 nothing yet. I also quickly say, with mutual respect and
21 open dialogue to agree to disagree, they can be your most
22 powerful ally. The old tale of divided we fall, united we
23 stand applies to both Eastern and Western Interior Regional
24 Councils.

25

26 Management cannot manage without the
27 cooperation and support of the users and the users cannot
28 easily continue their subsistence lifestyle without
29 effective resource management.

30

31 I want to thank Eastern Interior for
32 letting me help them along the twisting and sometimes rough
33 path of cooperative management. There's no turning back to
34 the time of finger-pointing and isolation between
35 management and subsistence users. Others have asked me
36 what keeps me going when many times I'm in the middle of
37 upset managers and angry subsistence users, it is easy to
38 keep going because of the willingness of rural Alaskans to
39 share their knowledge and working with managers who are
40 truly public servants. Yes, I must admit there have been
41 several Regional Council members who have helped me with
42 their prayers during recent difficult times.

43

44 I make no promise the trail ahead is going
45 to be easy. There will be many times when each of us will
46 want to point fingers and lay blame. I truly believe we
47 have grown beyond finger pointing because of mutual respect
48 and trust we have built together. But our mutual respect
49 and trust will be tested with new challenges facing us and

50 will corrode into disrespect and mistrust if we do not

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1 remain committed to working as partners who work to find
2 common ground while recognizing differences.

3

4 Finally, I need to explain why I selected
5 Western Interior Region when I was asked to choose between
6 regions. It was a long weekend of little sleep as I
7 pondered the question. I could not decide when I was asked
8 on Monday morning, I did not answer but I laid out the
9 pluses and minuses of selecting one over the other. Once I
10 heard the echo of my reasoning it was clear what my
11 decision would be, I selected the Western Interior because
12 of its location, in the middle between the Eastern and the
13 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta region. I will be able to continue
14 to work with Eastern Interior on fishery issues and cross
15 regional issues and to help continue to expand the
16 cooperative foundation being laid between Western and
17 Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta. Despite soul searching and many
18 talks with my supervisors and Regional Council members, I
19 still feel I am turning my back on Eastern Interior Region.
20 I honestly wish this staffing change never happened but we
21 are here and the challenges are still coming.

22

23 I wish Donald Mike and Eastern Interior
24 Council the best and will do my best to make this
25 transition short so both of you can move ahead. Thank you
26 Eastern Interior Regional Council for the fun we've had
27 walking the path of cooperative management together. I
28 will miss being your Regional Coordinator. For Western
29 Interior Regional Council, we will continue to work
30 together and I am honored to continue to be your Regional
31 Coordinator. Both Interior Regional Councils have taught
32 me a lot but I have a lot more to learn to help become a
33 more effective conduit and/or a catalyst between the rural
34 subsistence users and resource management in this
35 cooperative management experiment. Let's move ahead on the
36 path of cooperative management.

37

38 The reason I went to a letter format is
39 because I've talked to several of you individually and not
40 the full Council and I felt obligated to share to the whole
41 Council. So with that, that's the letter and explanation.
42 So if there's any questions I can try to answer them or
43 otherwise we can move on to annual reports.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Vince, you've been our
46 shepherd and without you we feel as though the flock is
47 lost but we know you'll still be there and we can still
48 reach out to you and that's reassuring.

49

MR. MATHEWS: I would appreciate you give

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1 the same openness and cooperation that you've given over
2 the years, through joking and through serious conversations
3 to Donald Mike, because it's an extremely difficult time
4 for him -- not for him but extremely difficult time walking
5 in at this moment with the changes on your membership and
6 uncertainty of fisheries and everything else swirling
7 around, a change of administration, Donald has a huge
8 challenge in front of him to deal with that. So I hope you
9 would give the same patience you gave me over the years as
10 I stumbled, made mistakes and sometimes got it right, but I
11 would hope you'd do that because that will make the
12 transition go easier and then you'll keep the speed as
13 you're drawing your wings to ready to fly with this
14 program.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Your concerns are very
17 carefully listened to just as you have always been
18 carefully listened to, although we may have joked a time or
19 two.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then I think we'll just
22 move on to annual reports. And seriously on this whole
23 thing, I think with Donald and your leadership, I think we
24 really need to seriously, when we get down to selecting
25 meeting dates and that, this -- the two days -- I set up,
26 all agreed to it, et cetera, et cetera, really isn't
27 working so we need to see how we can structure it
28 differently, because now you're getting into your annual
29 report and to be honest with you most of us are exhausted.
30 And so it's something we'll have to work on, meaning, we,
31 and the whole team approach and that, and I've heard rumors
32 that you're suggesting a third day and so has Western
33 Interior, so there may be the need to structure into that
34 where there's a break in the middle because we tried, what
35 was it, four days -- three days in Fairbanks and it was
36 productive, I'm not saying it wasn't but when you got down
37 to the third day without a break it was getting long.

38
39 Anyway, annual report is under Tab H and
40 we've already covered a lot of it already but we haven't
41 covered it all. Basically you submitted an annual report,
42 1999 annual report, the Board reviews it after Staff
43 advises them on different responses. The first topic in
44 your 1999 annual report was reconsideration of the
45 intensive management policy, where, you know, for policy
46 change. Basically you did not agree with their response to
47 your 1998 annual report that manipulation of resource
48 populations for the benefit -- subsistence benefit used for
49 another is beyond the purview of the Board. The Council

50 believes intensive management is within the Board's

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1 purview. The response from the Board, and this is hard to
2 do in a quick way, so you do have the written copy in front
3 of you because I think there's movement in here, I think
4 you've made some progress. But anyways, the Board can
5 manage populations through the authority to manage
6 subsistence harvest. So they can manage the population
7 through harvest is basically what they said. Current
8 Federal regulations allow the Board only to manage for
9 fluctuation in predator populations beyond subsistence
10 harvest through cooperative management planning. The Board
11 says it cannot adopt regulations that supersede agencies
12 specific regulations or enlarge or diminish the authority
13 of the land managing agencies to manage. The Board -- I'm
14 not going to go through all of it but the way they conclude
15 it is the Board recommends your Council pursue this concern
16 within the context of conservation unit management planning
17 efforts and other cooperative State, Federal wildlife
18 planning efforts.

19
20 And I'll just stop there. So they are
21 saying that it can be done through, possibly other planning
22 efforts. Maybe Pete can help me with this, I don't -- I'm
23 not sure they're shifting in their policy of managing one
24 over the other, but I sense there's some shifting by the
25 Board there and I'll stop there. If there's any questions
26 on that -- because you guys have spent two years on this
27 particular topic.

28
29 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I have a question.
30 In their response here, in the third paragraph down on the
31 second page of the letter, it says, what you just said, the
32 Board may not adopt regulations that supersede agencies
33 specific regulations nor enlarge or diminish their
34 authority. If you don't enlarge or diminish their
35 authority, what in the world are we doing here? I mean
36 every single decision we make has some effect on their
37 authority, wouldn't you think? I mean we're either
38 granting -- we're granting something -- we're either
39 granting or taking away and it seems like it -- I know most
40 of the stuff we deal with is in regards to people
41 harvesting which doesn't have a lot to do with the agencies
42 but other things that we've gone through; we've commented
43 on management plans, we've commented on -- I mean here we
44 got the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act that we're
45 commenting on, so it seems to me that we're involved
46 integrally with stuff that could potentially enlarge or
47 diminish their authority. I mean we're not taking away
48 their authority, we're not giving them authority, but it
49 seems requesting that -- in this context, the requesting

50 intensive management, that would -- that just is an

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1 enhancement of a wildlife or fisheries management
2 technique. I don't think that that's us taking away or
3 giving them more authority.

4
5 So that part of it doesn't make sense to me
6 and I think that -- I think somebody's made a mistake
7 there.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Well, not being a lawyer, but
10 the way I understand that is that the Board only has
11 authority to manage subsistence uses. It does not have the
12 authority, and Pete or George can correct me, to deal with
13 the habitat, to deal with all that, so that's where they're
14 saying they may not adopt regulations that supersede the --
15 it's easier for me to say, the land managing authority and
16 they cannot enlarge or diminish that authority. So that's
17 where it's at. They're saying they cannot do that. George
18 is probably finding it in ANILCA, it's actually in ANILCA.
19 But your point is, is that to manage appropriately for the
20 rural preference for subsistence, then you're going to have
21 to manipulate the habitat or whatever and they're saying
22 that's not within their authority.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, I want to just throw
25 in a quick comment on this one, the way I see it and in
26 reading the entire paragraph and the meaning, the Board is
27 essentially ducking out on this one and saying they're
28 leaving that up to the particular agencies such as the US
29 Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the
30 BLM, and they've requested information that will be sent to
31 them on the possibility of predator control, but the
32 decision-making will ultimately rest with the individual
33 agencies rather than the Board.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: That's correct. Right,
36 that's correct. Maybe George can quote from ANILCA on that
37 but that's -- it's almost directly from ANILCA.

38
39 MR. FLEENER: Well, Mr. Chair, I think our
40 intent was to support intensive management as a management
41 tool and it's already a matter of fact that every land
42 managing entity in this country uses intensive management
43 in some form or another. They use strategies that
44 manipulate one population to benefit another. The National
45 Wildlife Refuge system is the highest -- they have the
46 highest percentage of trapping of all trapping on Refuges
47 is done by the National Wildlife Refuge system itself, and
48 the most of it is done to get rid of predators for the sake
49 of -- geese, for example, or other stuff like that. So

50 they're involved in intensive management whether or not

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1 they want to admit it and they're doing it down in Y-K
2 Delta area to benefit goose populations. So to say that
3 they don't support this sort of thing is really kind of
4 unfortunate and I think it's exactly what our Chairman here
5 was saying, that they're ducking their responsibility. All
6 we're doing is requesting that they use a tool that they
7 have at their disposal.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: But you were requesting the
10 Board to use that tool and the Board is saying that they
11 don't have that in their tool kit, that it's only the
12 agencies that do. It's where it was essentially a year
13 ago.

14

15 MR. FLEENER: So do we have no examples of
16 the Board exerting any sort of management -- I don't know,
17 authority or whatever? How can the Board not have this
18 responsibility when every Board member is the head of a
19 Refuge or a Park or a.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Exactly.

22

23 MR. FLEENER:unit of Federal land?
24 How can the Board not have that authority when the head of
25 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sits on the Board?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's the point that
28 Ida Hildebrand made. I'm not sure it was at this meeting
29 or Western Interior meeting. But the collective of the
30 Board does not have the authority, the individuals have it.
31 So I'm not second guessing your movement, but I think your
32 drive was to drive through the Board to the agencies to get
33 them to act, and now the Board is saying, well, we're not
34 going to, as a Board, drive the agencies to act.

35

36 MR. FLEENER: Well, Mr. Chair, I think
37 since the agency representatives are the ones who sit on
38 the Board, I think that we should still pursue this through
39 them and perhaps put it back in here in more sharp words,
40 mention that heads of these agencies are the ones sitting
41 on the Federal Subsistence Board, and if the leaders of the
42 agencies are not willing to direct their agencies to do
43 something to benefit subsistence users, then perhaps we
44 ought to ask for some volunteers to get on the Federal
45 Subsistence Board who will take some action.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: So we'll bring that up when
48 we look at 2000 report topics. And George is anxious -- I
49 don't know, he wants to share -- maybe he does, I don't

50 know.

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1 CHAIRMAN GOOD: He probably doesn't want to
2 but he feels he has to. Go ahead, George.

3
4 MR. SHERROD: Yes, since all the Chiefs
5 have left and there's only us Indian's here, I guess we can
6 -- I think what they would have been looking for is
7 something under the limiting or saving clauses found in 815
8 of ANILCA. I don't find that there. I can't give you a
9 definitive answer on some of the questions you've asked. I
10 do know that we have at least one example in which the
11 board has overridden agency policies in this program, and
12 that is the opening of the Dalton Highway Management
13 Corridor. BLM regulations say they cannot be more liberal
14 than State regulations in terms of management of lands, and
15 the attorney at that time told them, if the Board did not
16 have the capacity to manage lands by agencies, then the
17 Board had no power whatsoever.

18
19 What I would suggest is sending back a
20 response saying, thank you for the information, can you
21 state in statute and law where you lack the capacity to do
22 this, rather than a vague answer.

23
24 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to say
25 exactly -- that's exactly what I said in the form of a
26 motion.

27
28 MR. NICHOLIA: Second and question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GOOD: All in favor.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Opposed same sign.

35
36 (No opposing votes)

37
38 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Motion carries.

39
40 MR. FLEENER: And I think I'd like some
41 follow-up with that if we're going to do it in a form of a
42 letter, or whatever, that mentions that the board has
43 overridden agency -- a specific agency in doing the Dalton
44 Highway Corridor thing.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, and as
49 you all know, at this stage, you know, we develop the

50 topics for 2000, the Chair then is given a copy of the

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1 draft, then first edit and then the draft comes before you
2 at your next meeting for final approval.

3

4 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd also like to
5 talk about number 2 here, the comprehensive study of
6 muskrat population decline. I'm not too happy that they've
7 ducked their responsibility on this as well saying that
8 they're not able to do whatever, watershed-wide, I can't
9 remember where it's at in here. They said something about
10 not doing watershed-wide or Statewide -- statewide project
11 to look at the muskrat population decline and that we
12 should go to -- actually it says, components of these
13 requested are studies are ongoing programs. Well, I'd like
14 to say that I don't think Yukon Flats National Wildlife
15 Refuge or Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is looking at
16 decreased muskrat number and I'd like to see whoever wrote
17 this response, I'd like to get some numbers and where these
18 things are actually being looked at. I talked to the
19 Tetlin Refuge manager not too long ago and he said that
20 they've been taking a look at some stuff, but I don't know
21 of anybody else that's taking a look at it. And if this
22 has been a statewide and territorialwide problem in some of
23 the adjacent territories in Canada, I think that there's a
24 serious enough problem here that we either need to have our
25 Refuges look at them.

26

27 But I don't like the idea that we're
28 getting a letter saying that these are ongoing projects of
29 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when maybe only Refuge
30 is looking at it. To me that's not ongoing programs of
31 these organizations when only organization is looking at it
32 -- or not one organization, excuse me, one part of one
33 organization. We have a number of Refuges in this state
34 and if only one is looking at it, I don't think we can say
35 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking at the
36 problem when it's a problem on a much larger scale.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, but Mr.
39 Fleener, please direct yourself to the last sentence there,
40 it says, the Board will direct Staff to work with State and
41 Federal agencies to provide a summary of known status so
42 your points are well taken. It's not here, you've only
43 heard of one, but the Board has directed that there will be
44 -- this goes back to what you talked to me in private and
45 I'm kind of nudging Donald here because it's been extremely
46 difficult for me also -- is how do we track this?

47

48 Pete has taken on a different reports and
49 has followed through, but it's hard to track, to know how

50 this -- who has the responsibility to do this report, maybe

00267

1 Pete has an update. But generally when it's been other
2 ones, one on the team does that and then follows through on
3 it. But.....

4
5 MR. FLEENER: Well, Mr. Chair, I think that
6 a report of this nature should come from, apparently it
7 says here in the letter, components of the requested study
8 are ongoing programs of these agencies, and I think these
9 agencies should be providing this. If this is something of
10 concern, this letter should have been sent to the agencies
11 saying this is something that's important, can you please
12 update our Council on this and nobody updated any of us. I
13 had to go back and ask someone a question, in particular,
14 and then get an update.

15
16 And your point about the letter, I saw -- I
17 mean the last sentence in the letter, I saw that, all that
18 is is known status. Well, basically we all know that the
19 populations are low, there's a few pockets here and there
20 where there's a few pockets of higher muskrat populations.
21 I can give that update, just about anybody knows that.
22 That's not what we're looking for, we're looking at a more
23 comprehensive study of the problem. Whether or not it's
24 done on an ecosystem basis or if it's done within each
25 Refuge, Park and BLM unit of land, whatever, I think it's
26 something that still needs to be looked at.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I think the question is who
29 are the Staff, is it Staff of the Board? The Board has
30 directed their Staff, are they directing Fish and Wildlife,
31 who are they directing and I think Pete's going to try and
32 help us find out, maybe.

33
34 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, to address Mr.
35 Fleener's comment and it's well taken, is that, the
36 statement he made about the ongoing components, already
37 integrated in an ongoing program, was referring to the
38 original topic that we dealt with as Staff. Part of that
39 asks for, oh, I can't remember, but it's something about
40 water quality, water quantity, I forget exactly what it
41 said, but it had something to do with water quality and
42 water quantity, those are already parts of ongoing studies
43 and also on the Yukon Flats Refuge. As everyone knows,
44 they're not doing muskrat population studies, we know that
45 all too well. Where this goes from there, I don't know,
46 all I can say is maybe you suggest that you refine the
47 topic down to specific drainages or creeks or what have
48 you, where you want to know information on specific muskrat
49 populations, instead of making things regionwide request.

50 Because the funds just won't handle that, I think we all

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1 know that.

2

3 But maybe slice down your concerns to
4 specific areas, I think those are easier to target. That's
5 all I have. I don't have an update for you, no.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, it was focused,
8 but the problem was is that the focus was Yukon and Minto
9 Flats and the -- I don't want to second guess the Board but
10 obviously when you mention Minto Flats, there's 20 acres or
11 less of Federal lands there. So I think Pete's right, you
12 need to focus it down. You did say the Flats, maybe one
13 option would be to refocus on a section of the Flats. I
14 don't know where to go with that. I don't know much about
15 the biology of muskrats but I think what Pete is saying is,
16 is that you would like a pilot -- maybe a pilot study done
17 somewhere and then specify where that is, or specify that
18 you have Staff tell you which is the best place to have a
19 pilot study.

20

21 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a
22 motion that we request the Yukon Flats National Wildlife
23 Refuge to pursue funding to do a pilot study to determine
24 -- not to determine, but to do a comprehensive study of
25 muskrat populations in the Yukon Flats. Did I say motion?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, you made a motion to
28 that effect.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We need a second.

31

32 MR. NICHOLIA: Second and question.

33

34 MR. JAMES: Before you call the question
35 there, I guess when we brought this up here last year, it
36 was not a -- we talked about the decline of the muskrats we
37 mentioned that the population of the muskrat, there's no
38 more muskrats out there, and the agencies weren't doing
39 anything about the depletion of a resource, you know, and
40 so we brought it up. There is no decline, there is no
41 muskrats out there. And I don't know where this decline of
42 muskrats came from.

43

44 We were talking about last year that the
45 other animals depends on the muskrats for livelihood and
46 the subsistence people depend on the muskrats for one of
47 their food sources. We weren't talking about -- we were
48 talking about -- I don't know where this regionwide
49 ecosystems came -- came about, and I know Minto Flats

50 there's all State lands there but on the Yukon Flats,

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1 that's where our main concern was and that's all Federal
2 land there.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GOOD: So this will refocus it in
7 the most appropriate direction and I think Davey's comments
8 are very appropriate. Let's go ahead and vote on it, all
9 in favor.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Opposed.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Motion carries.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. And I believe the way
20 you're doing this, is these would be additions to your
21 annual report, correct? Okay, thank you.

22

23 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, not only additions
24 to the annual report but that these letters should be sent
25 to the appropriate entity and whether or not we can get a
26 response from them. Like this is a request that it will go
27 in the annual report, yes, but it should also be a letter
28 sent to, for example, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge
29 requesting them to pursue funding.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Got that. The next topic is
32 resident fish population attention. I don't know if I'll
33 spend much time on that, you requested that and then they
34 responded and Bob Schulz didn't get his chance to present
35 one example of the money that was spent on non-salmon
36 species. But I believe he talked to each of you
37 individually on that. So I don't want to rush it along but
38 essentially it looks like what you had done was being met
39 through the Fisheries Information Service, if I got their
40 title right.

41

42 Okay, everyone seems to agree with that.
43 We already talked about the riverwide salmon management
44 plan. Yeah. Earlier, basically you wanted a riverwide
45 management plan, the response is, that they are requesting
46 -- I'm sorry, their intention is to strongly recommend to
47 the State that a review and revision of the 1998 plan be
48 undertaken in partnership with Federal managers and the
49 Regional Councils to address future needs. You've asked

50 that it be on the agenda, your next agenda, so I don't know

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1 if I need to talk more about that at this time. You'll
2 need to know because I may be involved with this or I may
3 not be, the linkage that this has with the MOA, so just
4 remember that when we get into it, okay. It's explained in
5 there but it's a key point and you're blessed by the fact
6 that you do have that plan, even though the '98 plan may
7 not address what you want, you have the platform to make
8 change.

9

10 Okay, additional meeting request.

11

12 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, before we move on
13 with number 4, I think that something that we've thought
14 about focusing on is an Upper Yukon River salmon management
15 plan. When you consider that the majority of the uses in
16 the Upper Yukon River are to meet subsistence needs and
17 very few commercial fishermen, there's been a lot of
18 discussion in the Yukon Flats and I've had discussions with
19 Steve Ginnis, president of TCC, and he's also supportive of
20 the idea of us doing an Upper Yukon River salmon management
21 plan and I'd like to see that, as well, included in the
22 annual report requesting that funds or something be done to
23 develop an upper Yukon River salmon management plan.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Fleener,
26 that is the wise way to go but please use the gateway in
27 there of the existing Yukon River comprehensive salmon
28 management plan. And then take that as your platform to
29 say that that may or may not provide a subsistence priority
30 and that then an additional Upper Yukon River.....

31

32 MR. FLEENER: Vince.....

33

34 MR. MATHEWS:the reason I say that is
35 I can't give it all to you now without taking a lot of
36 time. But use that to get into it. If you ask that ahead
37 of this existing plan, I think I've been warned you might
38 not be able to get a plan because of the MOA.

39

40 MR. FLEENER: Okay, Mr. Chair, I think that
41 as long as we remember that an Upper Yukon River salmon
42 management plan would be a large component of this
43 riverwide salmon management plan I think that I could go
44 for that.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the last one's pretty
47 easy, you asked for additional meetings separate. This has
48 been voiced over the years starting with, I believe it was
49 Steven Ginnis, when he was on this Council and it ended up

50 in your annual report in 1999. And basically it continues

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1 to be the policy of the Board to provide additional
2 meetings on a case by case basis. And I've already kind of
3 gave you advice earlier in the meeting that you may want to
4 look at when you get into these protocols, plans and et
5 cetera, that they may need to be outside your fall and
6 winter meeting, there may need to be additional meetings.
7 Because as an example, if we were to do the plan, you could
8 just see even with a three day meeting, we probably would
9 still be in the plan. So I'm not encouraging you to have
10 additional meetings, I'm just saying if the subject
11 requires it, then it's a case by case and I think you have
12 strong justification for additional meetings.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Vince, in the past, our
15 fall meeting was largely devoted to agency reports, we had
16 no fisheries and it took us two days. We've added
17 fisheries and it's taken us the better part of -- working
18 on into two days here in order to accomplish that. So I
19 think there's no question that we need a third day -- a
20 third meeting.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: I encourage you to bring that
23 up amongst your Chairs. My personal opinion, in the office
24 there's still a feeling at this point, now, it may be
25 changing that the program can still accomplish what it
26 needs to be done in two days -- two meetings, excuse me.
27 And I've been saying I don't -- I'm not sure that can be
28 done. So if that's your feelings, please share it with
29 others in the office and other Chairs, because some of
30 these other regions are not impacted by fisheries the way
31 you are. They have other issues that are important but
32 they're not on the hot seat for two meetings. So I think
33 Peggy was quite impressed with your concerns and et cetera,
34 so that's a plus to have her here. I think, individually,
35 people that are in the position of making these decisions,
36 you need to -- which Nat has done, Chuck has done, Craig
37 has done, Gerald has done, meet with them individually to
38 share concerns but also when they're here, capitalize on
39 the moment to make them feel welcome but also clear where
40 you stand.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Well, you know, actually
43 and I can't resist this, I really tried hard, Vince, but if
44 we're presented with the book, with all the fisheries
45 proposals on the same day we're to meet, I guess that would
46 be justification for believing we could do it in two days
47 because we weren't supposed to do very much, especially not
48 think.

49

MR. MATHEWS: Point well taken.

00272

1 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair, you know we spend a
2 lot of time on some issues and I think we can't -- we chase
3 all our public people out of this room, and that's the
4 reason two years ago I asked for a workshop the day before,
5 and I'm going to make a motion to have a workshop,
6 entertain a motion to have a workshop because a lot of
7 these issues we just -- you know, we're trying to figure
8 amongst ourselves what the issue is all about and we're
9 reading as we go along. And then we end up with nobody out
10 here, you know. And they all left and our agency people
11 all left and everybody left except for Bonnie.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. JAMES: Thank you for being here. And
16 that's exactly what I was getting to. We need to just have
17 our own workshop a day before, the agency people and
18 everybody comes so we can get together in a round-table and
19 that was -- when I mentioned that and then we got together
20 in Fairbanks, but everybody was there and came, you know, I
21 didn't even -- I want to just discuss this issue among
22 ourselves first, you know, so we can sit down and look more
23 like professionals when we have our people here instead of
24 asking questions and asking questions for two hours
25 straight on one issue. So I think some of these issues,
26 proposals that came through I was really -- I was really
27 confused, especially with the Fortymile, we spent a whole
28 two hours, way too long and some other issues, too, you
29 know. I think we need to cut these down, we can't keep
30 having people sitting there for two hours and just nailed
31 by every other little word and stuff there. We need to
32 nail-bite these issues in the work session so when we come
33 here we just ask specific issues and then we leave them
34 alone because I think we're nailed by too many issues.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We have a motion on the
41 floor, is there a second?

42

43 MR. NICHOLIA: Second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GOOD: It's been moved and
46 seconded that we have workshops. Is there any further
47 discussion.

48

49 MR. FLEENER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I think that

50 what Davey said is exactly right, we've requested these

00273

1 workshops. This meeting we decided not to have a workshop
2 because.....

3

4 MR. NICHOLIA: Because of the time crunch
5 and books.

6

7 MR. FLEENER: This time we decided not to
8 have workshops because we didn't have books, you know.
9 Since we had no meeting material, we all came here so late,
10 none of us could even understand anything anyway, so we
11 decided why even have a workshop because we were -- there's
12 no way we could have gotten out of here by today if we
13 would have had a half-day workshop. I think we still need
14 to push for that half-day workshop. I was in here at noon
15 the day before the meeting started and I don't know why we
16 couldn't have had a workshop the night before, four hours
17 to get it -- to get all this stuff taken care of. I think
18 the majority of us were here the day before the meeting and
19 so we could have done that. It wouldn't be much additional
20 time, it wouldn't be much additional expense.

21

22 But there we go again, we have got to have
23 our meeting material. There's no need to have a workshop
24 without it, without our meeting material.

25

26 Question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Question's been called. No
29 further comments. All those in favor please say aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Opposed same sign.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Motion carries.

38

39 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I'd like to say
40 that we did pass a motion quite a while ago to have these
41 workshops but hopefully this will just reiterate it and
42 that's the reason I voted for it again. We passed it three
43 years ago, I think, to have these workshops and it's still
44 equally important and hopefully we can emphasize the
45 importance of getting our meeting material on time. And it
46 might be good for us to, as a Council, send a letter
47 somewhere to complain vehemently about the lateness of our
48 books, complain on behalf of the Western Interior Council
49 for the lateness of their books, complain for the lateness

50 of the checks that we received that were -- I don't know

00274

1 what they're -- the per diem checks or whatever, so we
2 could pay for the meals that we were supposed to be
3 pitching in for, and I think just all around, I'd like to
4 complain.

5
6 So we need to send a letter somewhere and I
7 don't know who would be the recipient, maybe the Chairman
8 of the Federal Subsistence Board, send him a letter and
9 complain about these issues because it shouldn't continue.
10 If we're supposed to be working with a professional
11 organization we need to get our meeting material on, we
12 need to get our per diem on time, we need to have all of
13 our airline arrangements taken care of in a timely fashion,
14 not wonder which plane we're supposed to be getting on and
15 which one we're going home on. These things need to be
16 taken care of ahead of time.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Vince.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm kind of
23 lost here but I know George has something to talk about,
24 but we understand the letter and the direction but you did
25 have Peggy Fox here who did apologize for the lateness on
26 that so it's your decision to do the letter or not but I'm
27 just saying that she's the one who makes the things.....

28
29 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, we can copy Peggy,
30 but I still want to send the letter up somewhere a little
31 higher than Peggy. It's nice that she apologized but
32 they've been apologizing for things late in the past and
33 they're still coming late.

34
35 Another thing I'd like to complain about is
36 the lack of having the other Council member that was
37 supposed to be sworn in and that hadn't been done. And I
38 understand Vince tried to explain what happened but
39 regardless, we had one less Council member that was
40 supposed to be appointed by the Secretaries and that was
41 also delayed. So there's another thing that's late in
42 happening. But that in the letter, too.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the lateness on that was
47 the lateness of appointment by the Secretary but it's duly
48 noted that in that same letter that needs to be put in
49 there, that that is not respectful to the people being

50 appointed as well as those that are being not reappointed,

00275

1 that they don't know until days before they're planning to
2 come to a meeting that they haven't been reappointed.

3

4 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, along those lines
5 I'd also like to request that Vince or Donald, someone look
6 into how we can get perhaps the appointing of our people
7 out of the hands of the Secretaries and into the local
8 Federal Subsistence Program here in Alaska. I don't know
9 why it's necessary that a request to have someone appointed
10 has to go to Washington, D.C., to be signed by a person who
11 doesn't know us, doesn't know our area and probably doesn't
12 have, just by virtue of being so busy and so far away
13 probably doesn't have a whole lot of interest in who are
14 the individuals sitting on these Councils, it would be nice
15 if it was done by the Federal Subsistence Program here in
16 Alaska.

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: My recommendation on that
19 would be twofold, and I'll talk slowly so it's in the
20 record. One would be to put it in your annual report. But
21 realize that you don't get a response until a year from
22 now. The other would be a letter to the Secretary of
23 Interior, and what's his name, the Sec.....

24

25 MR. FLEENER: Glickman.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS:Glickman. To them, also
28 fully advising you that that same letter will come back to
29 the annual report, but you're flagging the person who does
30 the actual appointment. But you're saying to the Federal
31 Subsistence Board, you want this chain of appointment to be
32 shortened because of the time that it -- time delays.

33

34 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
35 work exactly like that, send letters to the Secretaries and
36 also send it to the Federal Subsistence Program.

37

38 MR. MATHEWS: That's all I had for annual
39 reports, as far as the 1999 response to you, the response
40 from the Board.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Just a quick comment at
43 this point. I realize there's not much in front of us, but
44 that which is behind us is getting cold and I am hungry so
45 let's eat.

46

47 (Off record)

48 (On record)

49

CHAIRMAN GOOD: We'll reconvene the

00276

1 meeting, it's about 6:22. We're now taking up the
2 correspondence received and sent, we're asking if there's
3 any comments on it. If there are no comments, we'll move
4 on to elections and appointments.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: A summary of all your
7 correspondence sent and received is under Tab I, if you're
8 wondering. And there was a letter submitted by the Denali
9 SRC, that I must have misplaced, on the appointment of Paul
10 Starr, so it's not listed there but it was received. And
11 that's the only thing on correspondence received. Your
12 policy is when the correspondence comes in, copies are sent
13 to all Council members.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GOOD: We do want to expedite
16 because Gerald does have another meeting at 7:00 o'clock
17 here.

18
19 MR. JAMES: Is the meeting here?

20
21 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I don't know where it is.

22
23 MR. NICHOLIA: City Council.

24
25 MR. JAMES: Oh, City Council.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: So if there's no questions on
28 that, then you come up to elections. You already did
29 appointments, so it would be elections for officers.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Do you handle that Vince or
32 do we handle it from here?

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: What?

35
36 CHAIRMAN GOOD: The elections. I can't
37 remember if I read it in the book.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you have the three
40 offices, you know, Chair, vice chair, and secretary.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Right.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: No, you just, in the past
45 opened up nominations.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: So you went that route. Or

50 what -- well, you can't do that here, I'm sorry. Western

00277

1 did it just by a blanket motion and kept the same officers
2 in.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Okay, I don't think we can
5 do that. So nominations are open for the office of
6 Chairperson.

7

8 MR. JAMES: I nominate Gerald Nicholia.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Gerald has been nominated
11 for the office of Chairperson. Are there any other
12 nominations, it doesn't require a second. Then the Chair
13 can now retire and give it -- can I give it to him now
14 or.....

15

16 MR. FLEENER: You should ask him if he's
17 interested.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GOOD: Oh, Gerald are you willing
20 to serve as Chair?

21

22 MR. NICHOLIA: You can finish this.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GOOD: I can finish this -- no,
25 you take over right now.

26

27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Open nominations for
28 vice chair.

29

30 MR. FLEENER: I'll nominate Nat Good.

31

32 MR. GOOD: I'll decline and nominate Craig
33 Fleener.

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, anymore
36 nominations.

37

38 MR. JAMES: Call for nominations or what do
39 you call it -- close.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Close the nominations
42 for vice chair.

43

44 MR. FLEENER: I accept.

45

46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'll open nominations
47 for secretary.

48

49 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, who's our current

50 secretary?

00278

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Davey.

2

3 MR. FLEENER: Davey's the current
4 secretary, I nominate Davey James for secretary.

5

6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Anymore nominations.
7 Hearing none, nominations are closed.

8

9 MR. FLEENER: Ask Davey if he's willing to
10 serve.

11

12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: What?

13

14 MR. FLEENER: Ask Davey if he's willing to
15 serve.

16

17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Davey, are you willing
18 to serve?

19

20 MR. JAMES: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Do we need a
23 motion?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: No.

26

27 MR. FLEENER: If there's no other
28 nominations, no.

29

30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No other nominations,
31 nominations are closed. There you go. We already did
32 appointments to Subsistence Resource Commissions. We're
33 down to Council members.....

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: You've already done that with
36 Paul Starr and there's no cooperative management group
37 openings at this time or appointments necessary.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: That brings us up to
40 closing comments.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair, it brings it
43 up to closing comments and concerns.

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Start out with Davey.

46

47 MR. JAMES: I'd like to thank the Native
48 Village Council there and Gerald and Vince and Donald for
49 all their hard work in getting this meeting here together

50 and all the people that provided the food. I never did get

00279

1 hungry, almost.

2

3 I guess my own comments I have are I really
4 believe that, you know, we should have our workshop -- have
5 a -- the reason I always push a workshop before the main
6 meeting is, you know, we don't have to deal with the small
7 items, you know, and our public -- the people that come by
8 to listen don't have to sit there for very long periods of
9 time, you know, I mean they get bored. I don't want to
10 bored out our people out there, because they come to listen
11 to issues and we get their input there.

12

13 I guess I want to thank Nat there for
14 letting the people speak. I guess my other comments I have
15 here is I would really, really like to get our moose
16 management population back up and we really need to get the
17 agencies to put that as one of the priorities. Because
18 it's at a situation where we're either going to lose it
19 completely and it can't just drop out underneath us if
20 there's another bad weather coming up. So that's one of
21 the big issues that I have.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Jim.

26

27 MR. WILDE: Well, I was very glad to be
28 here and I want to thank the people of Tanana for their
29 hospitality and food and everything. I felt very welcome.

30

31 Of course, I'm just going to tell you my
32 concern about the salmon. I agree with Gerald 100 percent
33 that the main problem's offshore somewhere, I don't how
34 we're going to find the answer. I'm not so much worried
35 about myself but the next generation is going to be the
36 ones that suffer.

37

38 That's all. I'll let you guys elaborate.

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Nat.

41

42 MR. GOOD: You know we had a -- this past
43 year, you know, we failed. No question about it, we didn't
44 do what we intended to do we or would like to have done for
45 Eastern Interior, we didn't provide the fish, we failed.
46 But on the other hand we did everything that we could, or
47 at least we think we did, and I'd like to say that while we
48 may have had a small number here for this Council meeting,
49 I think we had the very best people and in that I'm very

50 thankful that we did and I think that everybody here should

00280

1 pat themselves on the back for doing the very best job that
2 they could.

3

4 And finally I just can't believe how great
5 Tanana's been. They even provided beautiful weather.
6 That's all I have.

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Craig.

9

10 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I think that in my
11 closing comments, I'd like to see in the meeting materials,
12 a tracking sheet and I've talked to Vince about this and
13 Donald, I hope you pick up on it, but I think we need to
14 include a tracking sheet in our meeting materials. We
15 didn't have it this time and I know it was requested before
16 but I think it may have just slipped through the cracks,
17 but we need to keep track of all the action items that we
18 have taken action on in the past so we can identify what
19 phase we're at, what step we're at and it will help us to
20 direct future action that we need to take. I think that's
21 pretty important. And I think even beyond just the
22 tracking sheet, I think the information that we put on the
23 tracking sheet should, at least, stay on the tracking sheet
24 for one meeting or so, after -- even after the action is
25 completed, just so we can -- it will be there as a history
26 for the next meeting so we can still know what we did over
27 the past year or two years.

28

29 Another thing I'd like to see, Donald, is
30 that, you guys bring some additional folders to the meeting
31 next time, some decent folders that we can -- so that the
32 Coordinator can organize the meeting materials that
33 presenters bring. Because we received 15 or 20 separate
34 pieces of paper and it would have been nice if we could
35 have had those three-hole punched or something and stuck in
36 a folder or two-hole punched and then it could have been
37 put in tabs in order. And if they could have everything
38 given to you guys, you know, instead of coming up here and
39 passing stuff around at meeting breaks, you know, when
40 things can get misplaced, lost, stuck in the wrong place
41 and we're digging around for it, if they could be given to
42 you and then you could come and put them in our meeting
43 folders between breaks or something, I think that would be
44 the best way of handling that. I think it would be more
45 organized and more professional.

46

47 I'd like to thank Vince Mathews for a job
48 well done and say that I've appreciated what all he's done
49 for this Council and me, personally, he's been a pretty

50 good friend and I've been able to call him just about at

00281

1 any moment's notice and I've called him and emailed him
2 lots and I think that he's done a fabulous job. He's
3 represented our Council darn good. I don't think we could
4 have, over the past few years, had anybody better
5 representing us because just about anything we needed -- we
6 couldn't get all of our stuff that we wanted to get because
7 he couldn't -- he just can't produce everything with all
8 the restraints put on the office that he's sitting in, but
9 I think that he did just about the best job he could,
10 provided us with lots of information and was the support
11 network that we needed to get things done.

12

13 And I'd also like to welcome Donald, and
14 say that, don't take things too hard because we're pretty
15 hard on Vince, but none of it's personal and we look
16 forward to working with you and expect a lot of phone
17 calls, especially from me. I don't know about these other
18 guys but I have lots of questions and I need lots of
19 answers. It's my way of being in touch with the
20 information that I need to make the best decisions.

21

22 I'd like to thank Gerald Nicholia and
23 Tanana Tribal Council for putting together an excellent
24 meeting, as the other Council members have already said.
25 It's been a well run, well organized meeting and everything
26 has just been fabulous.

27

28 This is kind of a nitpicking thing but I
29 think that I'd like the organization here to make some
30 higher quality name plates. These things we've been
31 sitting behind for years now and they do this, they fall
32 apart, they fall on the floor, people's names are
33 misspelled. I'd like to see maybe a nice wooden plaque up
34 here or something with our names engraved. It only cost
35 about four bucks or five bucks to make one of those things.
36 Have something with a nice name plate that's not going to
37 fall down. And I'd also like to see it have our community
38 name on there because when we travel to these other
39 communities people are walking in and out and they don't
40 know what community we're from. I think that would be a
41 valuable addition.

42

43 Something else that also came across my
44 mind recently and someone else added to is is the idea of a
45 creation of a jacket or something that has the Eastern
46 Interior Regional Advisory Council on the back of it, with
47 a logo that I think our Council could get together and work
48 on. But it would be nice if our Councils had some coats
49 that recognized our participation in the subsistence battle

50 we're struggling through and it would be good for the

00282

1 program overall. It would let people know who we are and
2 what we're doing.

3

4 Finally, I'd like to thank Davey James, Jim
5 Wilde, Nat Good and Gerald for their hard work and
6 leadership and just I really enjoy working with these four
7 gentlemen and I think they're doing a fabulous job. No one
8 here lost their temper at any time that I noticed, everyone
9 kept their cool and I think we compliment each other very
10 well and I just really look forward to working with these
11 guys in years to come.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I just would like to go
16 on record to say that I'd like to thank Chuck Miller and
17 that a letter or plaque or something be presented to him
18 some time, when it's available. I'm going to kind of miss
19 him because we had a lot of conversations, we did a lot of
20 things together, we expedited a lot of meetings.

21

22 I'd like to thank Vince Mathews for all the
23 time we spent together, all the issues, trials,
24 tribulations. And I'd like to direct Donald Mike or the
25 program to send a thank you letter from the Eastern
26 Interior to Vince Mathews for the work and stuff that he
27 done for us.

28

29 I'd like to thank my staff, Stephanie,
30 Jennifer, the tribal chair person, Faith, Herbie and a few
31 other people down there at the tribal office that did all
32 the cooking.

33

34 And my concern is that we could provide
35 something for the next generation that's coming up. I hope
36 we could come up with a good fisheries management plan for
37 upriver and downriver and midstream. And I'd like to say
38 thank you, Vince.

39

40 And one more thing, I'd like to know --
41 since I'm being involved on the coordinating fisheries
42 council committee at the same time, too, I'd like definite
43 dates of what time I'm traveling or what time I have to be
44 there or anything because I have -- I'm on a lot of other
45 things and stuff. Sometimes when my schedule is going to
46 conflict with some of these meetings and stuff and it looks
47 like I'll be spending December in Anchorage.

48

49 And I appreciate working with these

50 gentlemen here. It's been quite an experience to travel

00283

1 all over Eastern Interior, plus the Western Coast and
2 Anchorage and everywhere, just don't send me to Washington,
3 D.C.

4

5 Thanks.

6

7 MR. JAMES: I'd like to thank George and
8 Pete over there for all that information they did and the
9 researching into the proposals And after looking at it,
10 they did a lot of work and typing it that they did in
11 there. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: One more thing, welcome
14 aboard Don.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I just appreciate
17 the community of Tanana and the Council member for having a
18 great meeting here. I look forward to meeting with the
19 Council members. And please bear with me and I understand
20 that you guys will get frustrated once in a while but it
21 will be my first year and I'll do my best of what I've been
22 assigned to do. So thank you, again.

23

24 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I know that the
25 next agenda item is time and place of next meeting and I'd
26 like to say that along with what Davey said, I think that
27 whatever we plan here it should be a two and a half day
28 meeting, at least, and the half day before should be a --
29 what the heck did we call it?

30

31 MR. JAMES: Workshop.

32

33 MR. FLEENER: Workshop, that's the word.
34 It should be a workshop. If we're going to plan a meeting,
35 I think the last half of the day before the official
36 meeting should be set aside for the workshop.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, it looks like
39 everybody picked their meeting dates except for us, how
40 about the middle of the week or the end of the week between
41 the 12th and the 16th?

42

43 MR. GOOD: Question. Western Interior is
44 meeting on Friday and Saturday, the 9th and 10th, if we
45 were to meet immediately before them, we could do an
46 overlap with them and have ourselves at least a half day
47 meeting.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I guess I'll have to

50 ask Vince this and George and whatever, would there be a

00284

1 conflict with the Kodiak Aleutians in Old Harbor?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: There shouldn't be. As your
4 main focus at the next meeting will be wildlife proposals.
5 We're supposed to, as Staff, and of course, repeating what
6 George says, all the Chiefs are gone and just Indians are
7 here, we're supposed to avoid having more than three
8 Council meetings in a week but if you even selected that
9 week, that'd be three. So I don't know if Pete and George
10 got any other guidance but that's all I've got. It's three
11 per week and then if there's Council that have same Staff
12 to avoid that and then if there's a need of topics to have
13 them close or overlap or joint, try to do that. So that's
14 the only guidance I've been given so far on that. So, yes,
15 you could do that. There's only two meeting then during
16 the week of March 5th through the 9th.

17

18 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I think that the
19 7th, 8th and 9th would be good for a meeting in Fairbanks.
20 I know that at one of our last meetings we decided that we
21 were going to have -- I think we decided that we were going
22 to have every other meeting in Fairbanks and I think that
23 this would be -- since the Western Interior's meeting there
24 it would be perfect timing, I'd go for that.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you realize
27 they have a two full day meeting so you would, I think, if
28 I can think quick enough here, you'd have to go 6th, 7th and
29 8th, so you would have your half a day on the 6th, full day
30 on the 7th, three-quarters of a day on the -- and half of
31 that with Western. Something to that effect otherwise
32 you're going to be taking a half a day away from Western
33 and they have a lot of topics, too.

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is it all right for the
36 6th, 7th and 8th?

37

38 MR. FLEENER: Yes.

39

40 MR. JAMES: For the Staff, is it going to
41 interfere with the Staff or are we going to get.....

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'll ask Pete and
44 George but I don't see how because we're all -- only Donald
45 and I are on different Councils, George and -- well, Pete
46 covers the whole Yukon River, George covers Eastern and
47 Western and wherever else, as needed.

48

49 (Laughter)

00285

1 MR. GOOD: And Tom -- I think I can say --
2 well, I'll just say it, Tom Khron is your new fisheries
3 biologist for the Yukon River so where else would he be.
4 So is there any other Staff I'm missing, Pete or George --
5 so in a way it's actually.....

6
7 MR. DeMATTEO: Jerry.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Jerry, okay, yeah, correct,
10 and Jerry covers the Kuskokwim, so he would be at Western
11 and he has a high interest in this area so I don't know, I
12 can't see any -- I don't see any downfalls other than it --
13 for Staff, and that's not really your concern or maybe it
14 is or not, I don't know, that we would be in meetings from
15 the 6th through the 10th.

16
17 MR. FLEENER: It's all right with me.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: So that's the only thing I
20 could see on that. And then I think, Gerald, for
21 diplomacy-wise, I mean Donald and I could do it but I think
22 it'd be better for you to call Ron Sam up, the Chair of
23 Western and say you'd like to have a half a day overlap.
24 You've talked to Staff, you've programmed it in but does he
25 -- you don't have to prove it but, you know, so that he has
26 concurrence with it. Now, is there anything I'm leaving
27 out, Pete and George, I don't think so.

28
29 The only thing on that is I need to ask Ron
30 on it, too, but what's your feelings as a group now of
31 repeating what we did at the last meeting, that the hall on
32 the river, it's changed its name and I never get it right,
33 Chena Bend Convention Center and then you stay at hotels
34 that are nearby. It used to be Chief Peter John Tribal
35 Hall but that changed.

36
37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Chena River Convention
38 Center.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Chena River Convention
41 Center.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Would you like to repeat that
44 or would you like to stay in a hotel where there's meeting
45 rooms. The hotels that have meeting rooms are either the
46 Princess, Westmark, the new one won't be done. So I'm
47 asking now because it's just easier if I can get some idea
48 if we just repeat what was before, that meeting hall was
49 really -- for Staff, for me, my opinion, was just really

50 easy on us and they were very helpful and very conducive

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1 for a good meeting and you stayed at the Westmark. So do
2 you think that might work out well?

3

4 IN UNISON: (Nodding affirmatively)

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Then it would be the
7 6th, 7th and 8th and 9th and 10th for Western.

8

9 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, is Western also
10 going to be meeting at Chief Peter John or Chena or
11 whatever?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I only talked to one
14 member, I haven't had time to talk to Ron, my guess is
15 without talking to him, would be that they would probably
16 support that. It's not that you guys have to have
17 approval, you know, we can set it up anywhere, but I'm
18 trying to combine your needs when you're in town at the
19 same time, and it's just easier to get your concurrence now
20 on it. Okay, so that's -- I don't know, I'm just rambling
21 here, sorry.

22

23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Do we need a motion?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: No, you don't need a motion
26 on this. This is just a heads up that this is when you're
27 going to meet and we'll obviously be back to you if us
28 Indians didn't get it right with the Chiefs.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: So we'll be back. But it's
33 clear on the record that the directive I got was three and
34 watch overlaps, we've done that. So I don't know what
35 other parameters, and that's it.

36

37 MR. FLEENER: Mr. Chair, I move to adjourn.
38 Is there a second?

39

40 MR. JAMES: Second.

41

42 MR. WILDE: Second.

43

44 MR. FLEENER: Question.

45

46 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Question. All those in
47 favor of adjourning signify by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

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1

CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Bye.

2

3

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

4

* * * * *

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

3)ss.

4 STATE OF ALASKA)

5 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
6 State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
7 certify:

8 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 133 through 287 contain
9 a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME II, EASTERN
10 INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING,
11 taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 12th day of October,
12 2000, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. in Tanana,
13 Alaska;

14 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
15 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
16 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
17 and ability;

18 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
19 in any way in this action.

20 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 31st day of October 2000.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/04